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No. 275.

LOVE'S FIRST KISS.

BY HAP HAZARD.

When Lida's charms their light discover. To guide the footsteps of her swain, How blest the portion of her lover. As swift he seeks the goddess' fane!

How filled with bliss his heart doth flutter When, at her feet on bended knee, His trembling lips refuse to utter Its whelming flood of costasy!

All gracious she concedes her favor, And charms his soul with winning smile. He vows her beauty Venus gave her, And Girce added every wile!

Now swift his eager arms around her, All quivering with passion, dart! Now clingingly their clasp hath bound her Close o'er his palpitating heart!

And now her head, all languid sinking, Hath found the haven of its rest; Each tress, a gyve of Cupid's linking, Enchains the captive in his breast.

A mutual sigh its incense sendeth
Up from the altar of their bliss,
As soul with soul in transport blendeth!
Ah! what were heaven to Love's first kiss!

Tiger Dick:

THE CASHIER'S CRIME

A TALE OF MAN'S HATE AND WOMAN'S FAITH. BY PHILIP S. WARNE.

CHAPTER V.

A QUARREL.

"Sis, have you made an engagement for the picnic?" asked Fred Powell, several days before the event was to take place.
"Yes; with Mr. Beaumont," replied May Fred frowned impatiently. 'Can't you go anywhere without him?" he

Why shouldn't I go with Mr. Beaumont?"

asked May, looking up in some surprise.
"Oh, I suppose he is as good as anybody.

You have only your own taste to please." "Fred, why do you dislike Mr. Beaumont? Has he ever injured you in any way?"
"I dislike him? No, indeed; he is wholly indifferent to me."

And Fred donned his hat and went out

whistling, with his hands in his pockets.
"Fred is unjust to Cecil," said May to her "And Cecil is too proud to attempt to propitiate him; but I know that he bears him no ill will. He would not harbor resentment

she was doing, with a dreamy look in her blue

The day came at last, with its sunshine and odor of wild roses. Dead Man's Bluff was a scene of rare festivity. The flutter of gay robes, as some laughing girl shot through the air in the oscillating swing, or ran down some woodland path, darting arch glances over her shoulder at her pursuing lover; the click of mallet against croquet-ball; the snowy cloths laid on the sward, loaded with the contents of the now-empty hampers; the gay hammocks, stretched between the trees, with their occu-pants as languid and as lovely as any Orient queen; and out on the smoothly-gliding river, the bellying sails, and coming over the limpid tide, the sound of lute attuned to a bell-like

voice; all combined in a harmony of sights and sounds fit to move an anchorite. Happiest of all that gay throng was May Powell. With Cecil at her side, she forgot their surroundings, and only felt a delicious thrill of pleasure in listening to the tones of his

Through the shadowy vistas they passed, arm in arm, over the velvet turf and beneath the great oaks that stretched their giant arms above them, as if in benediction,

Through a break in the foliage, Cecil caught sight of a boat passing near.
"Hallo! Corville," he called to the rower.

"aren't you going to give us a chance?"
"Certainly. Come down to the landing," was the cheerful reply, and the boat's head was

turned toward the flag-decked pier. "Hallo, Croville; just in time," said Fred Powell, as the boat ran alongside the landing, and the young man leaped out. "Come, Miss Flo, jump in, and we'll catch those runaways

before they get half across the pond.' "I beg your pardon, Mr. Powell," said Cecil, now appearing on the scene; "but I believe that Mr. Corville yields the boat to Miss

Powell and myself. Fred turned toward Cecil and looked at him from head to foot, with a contemptuous flash

in his eyes; then drawing the boat close up to the wharf, said: "First come, first served. That would seem to be fair. Come, Miss Goldthorp, we are

losing time," It was evident that he had been drinking more wine than was good for him. He had reached that point where the discipline and breeding of the gentleman are lost in the stubborn self-will of the man. He had had a race to the landing with a previous party, who had forestalled him in getting a boat. He would not now be thwarted again, and by a man whom he so cordially disliked. So, throwing aside all questions of right and courtesy, he extended his hand to help Florence into the

Mr. Corville now interposed. "Perhaps I ought to say that Mr. Beaumont "Perhaps I ought to say that Mr. Beaumont spoke to me and engaged the boat. It was to time for reflection, he must appear at a disadgive it up to him that I brought it in."



"Just handle them little silver knobs, Mr. Cashier--lively."

Goldthorp, will you allow me to assist you

"Perhaps we had better yield-" began

"Do you refuse to go?" demanded her es-

ort, hotly. Mr. Powell," said Cecil, "it seems to me And she turned to the trifle of fancy work that the right of this matter is quite apparent to any one who is willing to consider it fairly. Mr. Corville had possession of the boat, and at my request brought it in, out of compliment to Miss Powell. Of course your being in waiting for a boat could not affect Mr. Corville's right to transfer the one in his possession to any one

> I do not care to discuss the matter with you, Mr. Beaumont. I have the boat by right of precedence; and that is enough for me." "I am afraid I shall have to maintain the rights of the lady to whom the boat was yielded," said Cecil, with quiet determination; but

> there was a slumbrous fire in his eye, as he laid his hand on the painter. "Take your hand off from there, or I'll knock you into the water!" fulminated Fred. bursting with rage.

A crimson wave of anger surged up into Cecil's face and then receded, leaving it pale and with deeply-marked lines about the mouth. There was a steely glitter in his eye, and a rigid tension of all the muscles of his frame, that would have marked him as a dangerous man to one less observing than Fred Powell but the latter, too, was an athlete in build and

training, and feared no man. May Powell had been standing with flashing eyes and an indignant flush in her cheeks She now stepped between the combatants and addressed her brother.

"Fred Powell," she said, "you are ungen tlemanly. This is an outrage. Even if we had not the indisputable right to the skiff, you have conducted yourself from the first like a boor. Apologize to Mr. Beaumont, instantly! There was something of the ludicrous in the commanding tone which this little woman took with her brother, and some of the auditors

smiled. It nettled Fred more than ever.
"Sis," he cried, "will you please to keep
your oar out of these troubled waters? Of course I will comply with your very reasonable demand, at some future day, when I have noth

She turned her back on him. "Mr. Beaumont," she said, "you, at least, have the gentlemanly courtesy to terminate this shameful scene, even at the sacrifice of our

'Miss Powell," he replied, calmly, though his whole frame was a-quiver with suppressed emotion, "I hold myself subject to your com-

mands. Will you accept my arm?"
She took it with a grateful look that would have rewarded him for everything, had he truly loved her; but he saw Florence Gold-thorp draw aside her skirts and stand coldly to let them pass, and in his heart that look awoke the fires of hell.

Carrying his point brought no satisfaction to Fred Powell. He felt that he had lowered himself in the estimation of all about him; while in yielding the field, Cecil had gained

May rewarded him with a smile that sent a glow to his heart, such as it had never experienced before—a smile that lived in his memory

for many a week after. Cecil saw his opportunity, and, thanking Brewster, assisted May into the stern-sheets, forth I live for revenge. If I ever had eaped aboard and pushed off, outwardly as undisturbed as if nothing unusual had happen-

A momentary hesitation on the part of Florence, about accepting what was obviously yielded from considerations of expediency, not conceded as a right, caused a delay which Ce cil made haste to improve, by being the first to embark. Fred saw the smile of gratification on the faces of those who had espoused Cecil's side, and ground his teeth in rage, more bitter than ever against his opponent.

vent in the play of his muscles, as he sent the light skiff spinning through the water.

As for Cecil, beneath his unruffled exterior a tornado of passion was raging. He was a man who never forgave an insult; and now was added the sting of coldness from the wo-man he loved. She had gone over to Fred's side, right or wrong, and with her eyes on the ground in cold contempt, drew aside her skirts

helped Florence in: and then his choler found

to let Cecil pass.

In vain did May strive to be cheerful. Though he laughed and chatted with apparent ase, her woman's instinct told her that his thoughts were not upon her, nor on the con-

A feeling of depression gradually stole over der; and when in the evening he was about to leave her at home, she threw herself upon his breast, in a sudden flood of tears.

"Why, May, what is the matter?" he asked, supporting her in his arms.
"Oh, Cecil!" she cried, in the quavering roice of a grieved child, "do you love mereally and truly? I sometimes feel that you do, and then-oh, I am so happy! But there will creep in such a chilling doubt, it seems as

if my heart would freeze. I can't help it. I could die with wretchedness. Oh, tell me that you love me!"
"May! May!" he expostulated, soothing her with his hand. "You are not yourself. can you doubt me? Have you not had an evidence of my love this very day? I never before in my life passed over an insult without resentment; but I remembered that he was

"Cecil, did you do it for my sake?" she pried, her face irradiated with ineffable happiness. And with her arms about his neck and er soft cheek against his, she went on: "Oh, my darling! you do love me-you do love

Cecil Beaumont was not wholly bad; and as he felt this gentle creature nestle closer and closer in his arms, trembling in every limb with excess of happiness, and thought of the great wrong he was doing her, the hideousness of his duplicity arose before him, and some thing akin to remorse crept into his heart. If he could only get away from all the evil that he sat upright and rubbed his eyes. surrounded him, and go with her to some unin-habited corner of the earth, he felt that he could reward her love with something like a

"Certainly."

"Well, that seems to end the matter. You brought it in, and I was the first to take it. We acknowledge no privileged class here. Miss Goldthorp, will you allow me to assist you in?"

"Certainly."

A skiff grazed the pier; Charley Brewster disdainfully aside; and with a great leap of his heart, that almost found expression in a flerce cry, he set his teeth hard and returned to his heart, that almost found expression in a flerce cry, he set his teeth hard and returned to his purpose, all the more relentlessly because of this one moment of softening our place?"

Snubbed a second time, Charley Brewster disdainfully aside; and with a great leap of his heart, that almost found expression in a flerce cry, he set his teeth hard and returned to his purpose, all the more relentlessly because of this one moment of softening our place?"

"Curse him! curse him!" he missed, between his clenched teeth, when he was alone in the darkness of the street, "I'll sink him to the darkness of the street, "I'll have his blood!—

sympathy shot through his near at the sympathy shot through his near at the sympathy shot through his near that the sympathy shot through his ne darkness of the street, "I'll sink him to the veriest depths, and then I'll have his blood!—

ay, his blood! Money!—what is money in the balance with a tortured heart? No! hencebalance with a tortured heart? No! henceHe had no difficulty in still further plying the had no difficulty in still further plying a scruple, on his account, this night I bury it. His arrogance has sealed his doom; his folly shall supply the means of its accomplishment.

CHAPTER VI.

THE EVE OF A CRISIS.

WITH the gathering shades of night, ghoullike clouds had begun to chase each other across the sky, and fitful gusts of wind, with the chill of the grave in them, scudded along the streets and sighed dismally among the tree tops, while about the horizon hovered ominous lightnings, like the impotent menace of chained demons. Amid such a scene stood Ceci Beaumont, and bowing in his hands a face

clammy with anguish-wrung sweat, moaned:
"Oh, Florence! Florence! I could die for you, yet I shall blast your life, by destroying him in whom your heart is bound up! Do you love him as I love you? If you do, then God

help vou!' In the streets, with fellow-creatures thronging on every side, yet as much alone as if he were in a desert, Cecil Beaumont sought relief from the anguish that was consuming

m.

While he was walking rapidly, a paper was rust into his hand. He turned suddenly, thrust into his hand. but no one seemed near enough to have reach ed him. A second time Shadow Jim had baffled him, and now stood within four feet of

him, unsuspected.

At a gaslight in a deserted street he read the missive. It ran:

"Everything is in readiness. Be at your post." With a quick-throbbing heart, Cecil walked rapidly to the bank. Now the die was to be What would turn uppermost? could tell? Success, freedom, revenge, on one side; failure, infamy, a prison, and perhaps

the gallows, on the other! Cecil found Dawson, the janitor, already at the bank; for it was after ten o'clock. He had to draw forth the keys. What was his surprise made his bed as usual by turning back the ounge, but sat reading the newspaper before

"Don't let me keep you up, when you get ready to go to bed, Dawson," said the cashier.
"I've been on a lark, and those that dance must pay the fiddler, you know. It will be midnight before I can think of sleep.

He was soon busily engaged at his desk; and presently the old man retired, and his heavy snoring indicated the tranquillity of his slum-

Cecil worked away with a will. In the morning he must have something to show for means a bungler. his two hours' work. When the clock struck twelve, he purposely closed with a slam the ledger in which he was writing. The sound awoke Dawson, as he intended it should, and

"You're at work late, Mr. Beaumont," said the janitor, with a glance at the clock. Yes; but I am just through; I guess I

me? I'm feeling fagged out, and it won't do

you any harm either, at your age."
"Thankee, Mr. Beaumont," replied the janitor, his mouth beginning to water; for it was not the first time he had had a sip of wine with the cashier on similar occasions, and he knew that a rare treat awaited him. "As a man grows old, he do need a little something now

and then to strengthen him."

Cecil passed into the next room, and soon reappeared with decanter and glasses. He filled a glass for himself, and then pushed the de-canter across the desk to Dawson.

They chatted a while over their wine; and then Cecil passed into his own room, the jani-tor returned to his bed, and only his snoring

broke the stillness.

Meanwhile, Fred Powell was again in the clutches of Billy Saunderson, the "decoy duck." Having already drank too much wine at the picnic, he fell an easy prey to the designs of his pretended friend. Charley Brewster expostulated in vain.

'Come, Fred," he said, "it's only the part of a friend to tell you that you have drank too much. You ought to go home. You know

much. You ought to go home. You know that I warned you the last time."
"Look-a-here, Mammy Brewster, take me under wing, too, do," sneered Billy Saunderson.
"Now, unlike Fred here, I know I've been a naughty boy, and ought to be tucked in my little trundle-bed. Don't throw away your solicitude on this thankless beggar; but rake me to your maternal hosom." to your maternal bosom.

Charley turned from him with an angry flush, but held his temper.
"Fred, will you come?" he asked. "You

know it will be better for you."
"Confound it, Brewster," said Fred, who had not forgotten that it was Charley who offered Cecil his boat, "I supposed that it was generally accounted commendable in a man to be able to give due attention to his own affairs, without meddling with those of other people. I'm very grateful, and all that sort of thing, for your watchful care; but I confess myself at a loss to imagine who appointed you as my

guardian and protector."
Snubbed a second time, Charley Brewster

Fred with liquor. But by half-past nine a feeling of remorse and shame came over Fred, and he determined to put an end to the dissipation of the evening. "Pugh! Fred, you're not going?" said Billy,

when he announced his purpose.
"Yes, I've had enough for to-night."

"But it ain't ten o'clock yet! Nonsense, man! we're in for a night of it. The Fourth of July don't come but once a year. Step up and take something." "No more for me, if you please. You may stay as long as you like; but I am going to

make a change of base." "Oh, pshaw! Fred, this is stopping right in the middle." But having declared his determination, Fred

was not to be dissuaded, and began to walk toward the door. Billy accompanied him, and together they emerged on the street. As they passed out the door they were jos-

tled by others entering; and in that moment Billy's hand glided into Fred's pocket, and came out again, with a bunch of keys held between the fore and middle fingers. The keys were transferred to the "tail pocket" of his own coat, and then Billy tied a knot of ribbon in his buttonhole, and walked as far as the corner with Fred. There he took leave of him, and returned to the hotel and went up to his

"I wonder if they are as sharp as they think they are?" he muttered, as he struck a

He suspected that in order to get possession of the keys, without his (Billy's) being able to swear that he had given them to him, Tiger Dick had employed a cunning thief to pick his pocket. But with this suspicion in his mind, he had watched every one that had come near him, in his walk to the corner and back; yet he had felt no hand in his pocket.

to find, instead, a small round packet, wrapped in the foil from a package of tobacco? U being opened, it proved to contain ten ten-dol-

"By the jumping geewhillakers! if that ain't the cutest dodge that was ever played on this sport!" he exclaimed, hardly able to credit his

The truth was that he had not been robbed on the street, but after he returned to the hotel, and while he was passing through the crowded office, feeling secure from any attempt at thievery. Shadow Jim was by no

"Hurrah!" cried Billy, patting the money affectionately. "This will get me out of one of the confoundedest scrapes that I ever got Hurrah! I'm on my feet again. Now, lay on, Macduff! Jump right up on my mus-cle! I'm ready for the whole kit and caboo-

dle!" In the exuberance of his joy, Billy resolved won't go home to night, but stay at the bank. to make a night of it; and, secreting the But then there appeared before him a scorn- By the way, won't you have a little wine with money, returned to the saloon, after an ab-

sence of not more than fifteen minutes, where he again met Charley Brewster.

Meanwhile, the knob of Tiger Dick's door

turned, and without any previous warning, Shadow Jim stood in his presence. "Your keys, boss," he said, laconically, toss

ing Fred Powell's keys on the table. 'Good! You were successful? Jim, you're a trump!

He drew pen and paper before him, wrote

line, and said:
"That to Cecil Beaumont, without delay."
Shadow Jim took the paper, and without a

word, left the room. "Ha-hal my fine bird," cried Tiger Dick, ex-ultantly, rattling the keys. "These are the little jokers that answer half a dozen ends. First, they give us ready access to the treasure-house. Second, by seeming to implicate you, they stifle investigation. Third, they prove an 'open sesame,' should any of us run our head into a sling. Fourth, they set you and your precious grandpa by the ears, which may prove a hundred thousand or so in the pockets of Tiger Dick, my Lord Duke & Co. Fifth, they deprive you of the black-eyed peri, who was never destined for such a loggerhead as you, and of whom more anon. Sixth, and best of all, by sinking you in infamy, they revenge the insult offered me in her presence

And at this last Tiger Dick ground his teeth and fetched his hand down on the table, with a force that showed how bitterly the indignity put upon him yet rankled in his breast.

And all this time, Fred Powell, afraid to go home, lest this second lapse into intemperance should be detected, was sleeping off the effects of his dissipation in a boat-house on the river, all unconscious of the storm that loomed dark ly above him, just about to burst.

CHAPTER VII.

THE BANK ROBBERY. As Cecil Beaumont lay listening to the heavy breathing of Dawson, the janitor, a tu-mult of thoughts crowded his brain. 'This was the turning-point in the drama of wickedness in which he had involved himself. A few hours would prove the perfectness of all his

In that moment he knew no relenting. He had cast his lot, and henceforward nothing could swerve him from the steady prosecution of his purpose.

"I am too deep in the mire to think now of retreat, even if I desired it, which I do not," he said. "All the high ground lies in advance. I must go forward. With twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars in my pocket, and Fred impassably separated from Florence, I can throw overboard May and her fortune and try to win my heart's core—the apple of my eye! Oh! poverty and heaven with her! the wealth of the Orient and the tortures of hell without her! My life! my darling! I can-

not—I will not give you up!"

The clock struck one. It broke in upon his meditations like a note of doom.

His bedroom door stood ajar, and he could hear the click!—click!—as the pendulum swung back and forth.

With bated breath, lips apart, and a clammy moisture on his brow, he fell to counting the seconds.

Thus the time wore on until the clock struck two. The tinkling sound died away in the silent room, and nothing was heard but the swaying of the pendulum and the heavy breathing of the sleeper. The suspense was becoming unendurable. Cecil Beaumont lay upon his bed, trembling from head to foot and with the perspiration starting from every pore.

Presently he heard a sound, different from those he had been listening to. His heart gave a bound, and then stood still. He listened again. It was the gradual insertion of a key into a lock. It glided by the wards with a sound only perceptible to his strained senses. Then a door turned noiselessly on its hinges. A chilly breath of air reached him in his room. Muffled footsteps passed the threshold. The door was closed, and all was silent as the grave—all save the click -click!--of the swaying pendulum and the heavy breathing

of the sleeping janitor.

Cecil Beaumont could hear the blood course through the arteries of his neck, as it surged up into his brain, with a concussion like the fall of a heavy hammer.

Then long shadows fell through the crevice of the door, and traced their course across the walls of his darkened chamber-one!-two three! Then an interval of quiet, in which the pendulum seemed to cry out in warningawake!—awake!—and the gurgling sound in the throat of the old sleeper sounded like the death-rattle.

Cecil Beaumont raised upon his elbow, with eyes fixed upon the crevice of the door. through which the light streamed faintly. He hushed his breath. It seemed as if the throbbing of his heart must be heard in the outer room

Through the awful stillness came a sharp -not the click of the pendulum. Upon Cecil's sharpened senses it burst like the crack of a rifle, but he knew it was the set of the hammer of a pistol.

Then came a sound of awakening from the sleeper. The gurgle in his throat increased to a sound of strangulation that made Cecil shudder and his blood run cold. But the sleeper rallied, coughed, turned on his couch, and aroused himself with a stifled exclamation.

Next came a voice in a hoarse whisper: "Silence, on your life!"

The old man lay still and said, in a subdued voice, somewhat shaken by apprehension:

"Gentlemen, what do you want with me?" "Bind him!" came the whispered command. And then to the old man: "One motion of resistance, one sound to attract assistance, and your life pays the penalty!"

There was a slight creaking of the sofa-bedstead, as if the old man were turned on his face; then a coil of rope fell with a muffled sound to the floor.

"Now listen. And remember your life isn't worth a toss, if you try to spring any little game on us.'

You need not hold that pistol to my head; I will answer you.'

"We will keep it there as a reminder.

the key to the vault kept anywhere in the bank-office?"

"No, sir; not to my knowledge."

"Where is it?"

"Mr. Powell has one, sir."

"Anybody else?"

"The cashier, Mr. Beaumont."

"Where is he?" "He lives--

"Hist!" came a sudden warning. "What was that?" "It sounded like some one breathing heavi-

ly, or snoring," said a strange voice.

"Harkee, old man," said he who appeared to be the principal, "does any one else sleep in this here shebang? Now keep a straight tongue!"

"Take it away, sir! I'll answer you. cashier is sleeping in the next room.

tle bulldog to his knowledge-box, Jimmy, while we escort in this dainty cashier. Gads! we're in luck!"

There were sounds as if his orders were being carried out, and then stealthy footsteps approached the door of the bedroom

Despite his association in the plot, the acting was so real that Cecil felt his heart leap into his throat, as the door swung open, admitting a flood of light and three men in masks. The leader held a cocked pistol in his hand; the second carried a coil of rope, and the third a

Cecil lay as if asleep, until the masked intruder placed a heavy hand on his shoulder. Then he started up with a suppressed cry, in which all was not feigned, to such a hight had his feelings been wrought by this diabolical acting.

"Not a sound, or you are a dead man!" commanded his assailant, with the pistol at his

"I see that I am in your power, and know the folly of offering resistance. Take away your weapon," said Cecil, in a voice whose tremulousness was unassumed.

"You have very sensible views," replied the masked ruffian; "but, if you please, we will put it of your power to resist. Bind his left arm securely, men. And, as we have no use for his tongue, put a stopper on it. You see, if I do all the talking, you will have so much better opportunity to act."

His orders being executed, he went on:
"Now, sir, we'll give you a chance to get into your pantaloons, if you are particular on that score. But none of your tricks, or I'll et daylight through you in the drop of an eye-

Cecil availed himself of the privilege, and was then led out into the counting-room. found Dawson lying on his couch, bound and gagged like himself. The janitor looked the sympathy he could not speak.

The leader now drew a bowie-knife from his belt, and holding it so that the point just

touched the back of Cecil's neck, said?
"Now, Mr. Cashier, the firm, which I have
the honor to represent, has concluded to withdraw its deposits from this bank. Just open that door, if you please.

As there was no help for it, Cecil produced the key, inserted it into the slit of the lock, gave it a half-turn, and one of the burglars shot back the bolts, and swung the door open. "That's as easy as rolling off a log," laugh-l the leader. "If we always had so obliging ed the leader.

a janitor, we could dispense altogether with Turning to one of his companions, he said: "Just keep an eye on that snoozer, Jimmy,

while we take a peep into the sanctum sanctor um. At this point, the call of a night-bird sounded clear on the air.

With a swift motion, the leader thrust Ce cil into the vault. "Pile in there!" cried the chief to his subordinates," and run a knife into that cashier, if

he utters a chirp."
As they leaped in and grasped Cecil one on either side, the chief shut the vault door, and then turned to the terrified janitor.

"Move an eyewinker, and you are a dead man!" he said, sternly.

He drew a coverlet over the prostrate man, and then secreted himself under the counter,

keeping the janitor covered with his pistol. Dawson supposed that the burglars had received warning that they were in danger of detection; but, far from calling for help, he lay scarcely daring to breathe. He had seen the two knives held in terrifying proximity to Cecil's heart, and now saw the flashing barrel that kept its frowning muzzle pointed toward himself.

The lower blinds being closed, the burglars would have been invisible to any one passing in the street; but they had secreted themselves in order that suspicion might not be awakened by any chance shadow thrown upon the walls.

After the lapse of about ten minutes a different cry was heard, and the burglar emerged fearlessly from beneath the counter.

"Whew!" exclaimed one of the ruffians drawing a long breath, when they were reeased from the vault. "Don't ever shove this chicken into such an oven as that again I began to think the old boy had got my carcass,

"You'll be in a hotter place than that some of these fine days," laughed the chief. "But now for business. Just handle them little silver knobs, Mr. Cashier—lively!"

With a knife held playfully at his throat, Cecil went through the combination, and the bur glars threw open the safe. With exclamations of satisfaction they rummaged the safe, ap propriating all the paper money and the small supply of coin it contained.

Cecil was then bound securely, and thrown upon the bed beside the janitor; and taking up their bag of cracksman's tools, for which there had been no use, the burglars withdrew

"Keep up heart, my trussed bantams," said e chief, playfully. "In the morning you the chief, playfully. "In the morning you may tell your people that you have had visitors during the night."

Then he went out, closing the door after him

and turning a key.

The janitor stretched his neck around to look his perplexity at Cecil. Where did the burglars get a key?—Dawson would have asked, had he had the use of his tongue. Cecil only returned his blank gaze.

The scene in the bank had a sequel which had not been counted on. The perpetrators of the robbery had proceeded several blocks undisturbed, when, suddenly, they heard the measured footfall of a policeman ahead of

"Hunt your holes!" commanded the leader; and the whole crew dashed into an alleyway. "This won't do," he went on. "We must scatter or the cops will bag the whole lot of

Acting upon his suggestion, two of the ruffians took one direction, and he and the fourth took another, intending to further separate as soon as opportunity offered.

As they were proceeding through to the other street, a dog suddenly leaped out upon them, raising an uproar with his barking. The burglars started forward on a run, anxious to get clear of a vicinity where detection was so imminent.

As they emerged from the alley, the one in advance rushed headlong into the arms of a policeman, who was coming to investigate ground.

the cause of the noise, and both went to the "Stick a knife into him, Jimmy," cried the

captured burglar. But the policeman was strong and active. and kept up such a lively motion that the ruffian was at a loss where to strike, so as not to injure his pal. All the while he was calling

Soon there was a rush of feet and a whir

to track him, he shot him, and sped on through | loves? the darkness.

Meanwhile, the plucky policeman clung to his captive until assistance came. Then he was secured and his wrists ornamented with the steel bracelets. His mask had been torn off in the struggle; and a bull's-eye turned upon him revealed the smiling countenance of Tiger Dick.

"Well, gents," he said, coolly, "you've got me; I don't ask to be handled like a baby; but I ain't the devil, either; so a reasonable amount of tying up and holding on to will keep me from running away. If you know of any nice boarding-place in a quiet neighborhood, suppose we seek it and get in out of the night

The policemen knew the Tiger, and laughed at his sally. One of them said:
"Ain't this a little out of your line, Rich-

"Ain't what out of my line?" "Why, this masquerading, you know, at such unseasonable hours," replied the officer,

with a grin. "What's to prevent a citizen of this here Commonwealth from taking an airing when-ever he pleases? And if he has a mind to pro-

tect his phiz from these raw winds, who's to hinder, I'd like to know?"

The Tiger pushed his tongue into his cheek,

canted his head on one side, and favored his auditors with a decided wink. His playfulness put them in a good humor Even his first captor laughed as he rubbed his head where it had sustained too intimate rela-

tions with the pavement. "I say, Bewick," said Tiger Dick, addressing one of the policemen, as they walked along, "if, when you are off duty in the morning, you will take the trouble to tell Jimmy Duff the number of my room and ask him to drop around, the first thing, he'll pay you the five dollars that I'll owe you. I wouldn't ask him to call upor me, only I feel

as if I'd keep the house for a few days. Bewick laughingly promised compliance, and one of the other officers said: "Speaking of Jimmies, wasn't that 'The Shady' that gave us the slip?"

"He called him Jimmy, and requested him to tuck his knife under my ribs," said the po-liceman who had effected the capture.

"All's fair in love and war," laughed the Tiger. "Not that I loved you less, but that I "Laven, McCabe and Doolan, suppose you go and lay for Shadow Jim," said the officer

who appeared to be in command. "You may lay as much as you please; but if you hatch out that chick, just let me know,'

said the Tiger, with a chuckle. (To be continued—commenced in No. 271.)

RED ROB, Boy Road-Agent.

AUTHOR OF "DAKOTA DAN," "BOWIE-KNIFE BEN," "OLD HURRICANE," "HAWKEYE HARRY," ETC., ETC., ETC.

> CHAPTER XXVI. THE IMPRISONED MAID.

WE left Asa Sheridan and his betrothed, the ovely Zella, face to face with Leopold Hamal-

ado in the mountain grott The look that mounted the face of the darkvisaged Spaniard was one of consuming rage and fiendish triumph mingled. His lips curled with all the scorn and indignation of his wicked soul, and his dark eyes snapped and glowed as if with living fire.

Asa Sheridan sew the uncompromising fury of the man's heart, and he arose to his feet deermined to defend himself and Zella to the last: but before he had shown his intention by any hostile movement, a dozen of Hamallado's men appeared at the entrance to the grotto.

Resistance now, on the part of Sheridan, would be sheer madness. "Ha! by the Holy Virgin!" exclaimed Hamallado, with savage fury and triumph, "we have found the villain and his gentle friend!" "Oh. father!" cried Zella, imploringly

springing forward and throwing herself at the villain's feet, "spare him, father, I implore The wretch seized her rudely and thrust her

aside with a horrible oath.

"I will spare him, the young dog!" hissed ne villain. "I will spare him only for the he villain. tiger-pit; and you, girl, will suffer for this under the bastinado. A cozy nest to woo your mate in, my gentle child. But I will see to your happiness hereafter. And you, dog of a miner and scapegrace—you will not escape my vengeance again. Here, men! seize and bind the young villain-cut his throat if he offers

the least resistance." The young man saw how useless-even dangerous, it was to offer resistance; so he had to quietly submit to the power of the outlaws, and

vas securely bound. Hamallado searched the grotto. He found the book in which was that letter of fiendish

triumph and gloating revenge. This added new fuel to his consuming wrath, and Zella's poor heart almost ceased to beat through fear that he would murder herself or lover in cold blood to appease that terrible fire in his breast. Asa was conducted down the mountain side,

across a little chaparral, beyond which lav acres of those ancient ruins that are strewn through the San Juan valley. He was taken to and inside an old quadrangular buildingthe only one amid the ruins that held out any inducement as a habitation. And even this from the exterior looked like a huge pile of stone and sun-dried brick, overgrown with rank weeds and parasitical vines.

The captive was led along a dismal passage, down a flight of moldy, slippery stairs, and in-to the very dungeon from which Slyly, the Weasel, had liberated him a week previous. Here he was bound hand and foot and chained to the cold, slimy floor. A guard was then placed at the door, and all possibilities of escape cut off

Sad and serious thoughts now crowded upon the young man's brain. He had brought all this suffering upon himself. Why had he not made his escape from the surrounding dangers when he was free to go? Why had he remained in-Soon there was a rush of feet and a whir of rattles, and, seeing himself in danger of apter night offered its friendly shelter under or the floor.

"Hi! men, gag this fellow. We've got all prehension, Jimmy abandoned his luckless which to depart in safety? Ah! why, indeed? we want out of his clam-shell. Hold the lit-chief and plunged into the alley. Here he was His own heart answered: he was a captive chief and plunged into the alley. Here he was again attacked by the dog; but as the act could not now further jeopard his safety, and as the brute, if left, might be employed by the police to the left, him, which him and and or trutch him, he he the line and and or trutch him. He was a captive even in the mountain grotto. Love held him there enchained, and what danger would a true man not brave for the woman that he

Detack him, he snot him, and speed on through loves?

One thought brought others in its train, until finally the night of his first captivity, with Emerging on another street, he ran up a stairway, fearing to appear in the street, where he might meet an officer at any turn. Up to the fourth story and out upon the roof, carefully replacing the scuttle; from roof to roof and down through another building into a cross street he passed, and gliding from doorway to doorway like a shadow, eluded his pursuers.

Meanwhile, the plucky policeman clung to til finally the night of his first captivity, with all its horrors, was recalled to memory. And then the face of that noble old man, the mysterious Basil Walraymond, stood before his mental vision. He recalled all that Zella had told him of the "tiger-pit," of the crushed and broken arm of the old man, and his escape into the forest. But, where was he now? Had he perished in the woods for want of some friendly aid? Was he a wandering sufferer

his mind, Zella, his betrothed, was weeping sad and lonely in all the agony of a broken heart, in a room on the floor above where she had been imprisoned by the wretch whom she had always loved as a father.

Leopold Hamallado was seated before her, mocking her in her helplessness.

"You have brought this all upon yourself girl," he said, with a savage flerceness in his tone, "and now you'll have to suffer the extreme penalty. You managed that miner's estreme penalty. You managed that miner's escape, you hid him away among the hills, fed and wooed him there, at the same time denying all knowledge of his whereabouts. to cap the climax, you carried him the book and letter-"

"In which you exposed your fiendish character!" cried Zella, in a fierce, reproachful

"I have proven myself an enemy that seeks a terrible revenge, girl. I loved your mother and warned your father that if he won her away from me, he would rue it. And so he has. He shall know yet that I have his child, and that I propose to make her my wife. You are the very picture of your mother. She was an educated woman, and that you might be as near like her in every respect, as was possible, I sent you to school and into the best society at Albuquerque. Your father is still living, and I will tell you something about him before long that will astonish you. But in one week from to-day we leave Quivira ruins for Salt Lake City, and between now and then—or as soon as the men all get home—your handsome, vagabond lover will be consigned to death in

the tiger-pit."

Zella stirred not, nor even evinced the slightest emotion at the man's fiendish words and threats. But nothing escaped her ears. Every word was indelibly stamped on her

emory. Presently the villain arose and left the room, locking the door behind him.

Then the resolute courage that she had been struggling to keep up so long, gave way, and the maiden burst into a flood of tears. The deepest anguish wrung her poor young heart. She was kept a close prisoner, her wants be-

ing attended by the old negress that was both cook and housekeeper in the outlaws' retreat.

From the negress she learned that active preparations for departure from the ruins were going on. She said the captain was getting uneasy—that he had expressed a fear

of that old man who had escaped from the tiger-pit.
"Where is Slyly, Huldah?" Zella asked the negress one morning, when she brought in her

"He's skulkin' round de ruins here like a kill-ship fiste-dog. Guess he's up to some deviltry. De ole massa jist mo'n licked thunder outen him visserday, and he look mcs' awful sneakin', does dat Slyly boy."

This news, bad as it was, in one respect, gave Zella some hope. She felt satisfied that her faithful servant-boy would leave nothing un-

done to liberate her.

On the fourth night of her incarceration she suddenly became aware that something or some one was in her room. She was so terrified that she could not move nor utier a word. see her hand before her. An awful horror stilled her heart; and at last, when it seemed as though the awful suspense could be borne

no longer, a voice whispered:
"Missus Zel-lee!" the last syllable slipped

out into a shrill, wheezy squeak. It was Slyly, the Weasel.

The sudden reaction from terror to joy left Zella so weak that she could scarcely stand. "Is it you, Slyly?" she gasped, as if in

"You jist bet, Missus Zella, Guess if I wasn't so black like de darkness, you could see | prove myself worthy of your love. "Where did you get in. Slyly?"

"Jings! I jis' wiggle-waggled in; but sorry to say you can't git out dar, Missus. come in to see you, and see if I could do enny thing for you. "What's going on, outside, Slyly?"
"Oh, Lord, Missus! ebb'rything dat's bad.

De ole massa givin' me de awfulestest whalin' dat I ever had. Whew-ee! he jis made de blood fly! I'd kill him dead, Missus," and the boy's voice fell to a calm, deliberate tone, "if you'd tell me to." "Oh, no, Slyly! never! You would be a

murderer then-the wickedest of wicked peo-But, what is your master and the men

"Fixing up de tiger-pit to put de young man, Massa Shear-a-ding into. De men cotch two mos' gol-whoppin' big bears in de beartraps and dey am gwine to make dem eat de prisoner up, 'fore de Lord dev is. Missus Zel-

"Slyly, you have been a good, kind boy to me," said Zella, laying her hands upon the youth's head. "If I ever can, I will make you present of a pony or a gun some day; or, whatever else you would prefer.

"Golly, Missus! guess I'll take a big, long plug ob tobakker. Zella could not help smiling at the boy's aspiration, but, having promised him the coveted article, she said:

Slyly, can't you turn the bears out and let them get away?" "Guess not, Missus; 'fraid dey'll cotch dis igger. But I knows sumthin' better'n dat, I does. I know how mean cle massa kill de

wolves dat howl in de valley. He put pising in de meat and give it to dem. I knows whar de pising is, and I guess I give some to de b'ars. "Do so, Slyly, and you will never regret it," replied Zella, highly pleased with the youth's idea. "But be very careful that you

are not caught in the act, or it will cost you your life. "Think I will be dogged-gosh careful, Miss-

The boy soon left the room, his exit being

made with that wonderful silence with which he had entered. The next morning Zella looked for the place where he had effected his entry, but could see no sign of an opening in the walls, the ceiling

The coming night was the time set for the execution, or rather the torture, of Asa Sheridan; and, as the day wore away, a vague and horrible suspense took possession of Zella's mind, which was increased by a dull, foreboding sound without, resembling the moan of a

coming storm. Shortly after darkness set in, Slyly stood at

her side in her prison-room.
"Did you succeed in killing the bears, Slyly?" the maiden asked, trembling through fear of a negative answer. "Lord, yes, Missus; de b'ars am as dead as Noah!" the youth replied.

Zella's brain grew dizzy with the sudden rush of blood from her heart that had seemed to be growing cold with fear and horror; but she soon recovered her usual composure, and asked: "Does your master know it?"
"Guess he does, Missus; and, Lord gosh! it
do yoah soul good to hear him chaw out de

awfulesest cuss words, Gracious, Peter! but he's jist a foamin' mad! I tell you it's fun to hear him cuss and rave. He's a mighty easy swearing man-words flow like as easy as de San Ju-ann." "Does he mistrust who poisoned them?"

"No, guess not, for I heard him say he'd ex-tarminate the one that done it if he knowed who "Do you know what they're going to do with

the captive?"

"No; but I thought I'd come and tell you what I'd done so's you wouldn't take on."
"Well, Slyly, I want you to go back and watch them. If you can liberate Mr. Sheridan do so, and then let me hear from you." "All right, Missus. I'll go right now, 'ca'se I's in a big hurry—want to hear ole massa boom and swear 'bout de b'ars. I tell ye, it's

gay."

Zella made no reply to the eccentric youth's remark, and the next moment she was alone.

CHAPTER XXVII.

AUNT SHADY'S SECRET. DAKOTA DAN and Octavia St. Kenelm reached Hidden Home in due time and in safety. To Octavia the camp presented quite a different appearance to what it did when she was so ruthlessly taken away. It looked more like that of military than of civilians, for the soldiers with Red Rob and his band were still there. The former numbered some forty odd,

the latter just fifteen.

The horses of both the soldiers and outlaws vere corraled in the valley, not far away. Red Rob was allowed the freedom of certain well-defined limits over which two soldiers kept strict guard. His men were confined in one of the settlers' unfinished buildings, and seemed to take their situation with cool indifference, passing the time in smoking, playing

cards and spinning yarns. Red Rob also seemed to take his captivity as coolly as though he were a military prisoner being held for immediate exchange. He conversed freely with the settlers and soldiers, and expressed a regret to Judge Thompson for his having postponed his trail until the day

following. As soon as Dakota Dan returned with Octavia, the young outlaw chief was as greatly reoiced as any one in the camp; and ere her friends were aware of the fact, the maiden and the youth were together.

"I am sorry, young man," Octavia said to him, as they again met, "to find you in this situation. For all you are considered an outlaw, you have been a valuable friend to us "Octavia," the youth replied, tenderly, "do

not let my captivity give you one moment's trouble. I feel confident of acquittal." "Upon what grounds?" she asked, eagerly.
"Of the good deeds in excess of the bad ones

that I have been the author of.' "I hope it will prove to be even as you "Then you do care for me, Octavia?" the

youth asked, with a tremor in his voice.

Octavia started, and her face flushed crim-"I beg you will not be offended with me, Octavia," continued Rob; "my own heart tells me that I am loved, for since I first met you on the road to Conejos, I have loved you, and there is nothing I would not have done for you and your love It was this love that brought me into the San Juan valley, and although I am now a prisoner, this interview with will more than repay me for the risks I run. But if I am mistaken, Octavia, in regard to your feelings, I pray you will tell me.

know that you love me, is all I ask. I will "Red Rob, outlaw though you be, I love you," replied Octavia, her eyes dropping, and her lips quivering with the emotions of her

young heart. 'God bless you, my darling girl," responded the youth, joyfully; "to know this is to live. Had my love not been reciprocated by you, I should not have cared how my trail terminated. As it is, I only ask that you wait until I have been tried. The judge is waiting for the arrival of a party of soldiers, settlers, and Santa Fe excursionists, who have been following my trail for two weeks, and who were to have met Captain Rushton's command at the confluence of the Rio del los Pinos with the San Juan. As soon as they arrive, I will

"My prayers will be for your acquittal, Rob—" "Robert Conrad," said the youth. "Some

time, if I live, I will tell you why I am called Red Rob, the Boy Road-Agent.' They conversed awhile longer, then sepa rated. No truer hearts ever beat happier with

the responsive thrills of love and joy. Octavia sought Aunt Shady, but she could not be found. The last seen of the old darkey. she was walking leisurely down toward the river. The maiden went in search of her. She found her seated upon the river-bank smoking a short-stemmed clay pipe. Tears were chasing each other down her sable cheeks. They recalled the time Octavia had found her in a similar mood while encamped

near Conejos. The old woman looked up, as Octavia came up to where she sat, and in a tone half laugh-

ing, half crying, exclaimed: "Law-sakes, honey!" "Well, what's the matter now, Aunt Shady?" the maiden asked. 'I's jist thinkin' how lonely I'd be now if you'd been killed when dem Ingins had you." "There's lots of folks in the world besides

me, Aunt Shady." "Yes. I knows dat, chile, too. But den dar ar'n't but one Octaby; den dey am nuffin' to me what you's been. Ever sence my little Henry Clay's been gone, you've filled dat vacant place in my heart, honey. Poor little Hankie; he war a mos' awful sweet chile."

"Do you think you'd know him, aunty, if you were to meet him?" "Oh, Lord sakes, yes, chile! a mudder couldn't furgit her childerns. Den my little Henry Clay had a—"

MARINAT ROUBINALS -E-S-

"A birth-mark?—a strawberry on his arm?"

No, chile; but he had a finger cut off, and a big scar on his head, and one ob his big toes war crooked; and I'd know him by dese 'firmi-

"I should think so; but look here, aunty, the time for you to tell that secret about my life is up; do you know it?"

"Oh, bress my soul, Octaby! I war in hopes you'd forgit dat sekret. It'll cause you trouble, chile, and if I hadn't promised ole

Massa St. Keneim to tell you and Massa Albert, I'd die afore I'd tell it—yes, indeed I would, honey; but if I must, why, I must." "You must tell it, aunty," said Octavia, seating herself by the old negress' side.

"Well, chile, to come right slap-dab to de p'int, you's not your fadder's chile."
"Not my father's child?" exclaimed Octavia, in astonishment; "what do you mean by

that assertion?" "I mean you's not Massa St. Kenelm's chile —not Massa Albert's sister.'

"Is this true, Aunt Shady?" demanded the maiden, in painful surprise. "Yes, henor bright, honey; you's not Massa

Albert's sister. "Then who am I?"

"Don't know who, chile."
"My God!" cried the maiden, bitterly, "am I an outcast? Was I picked out of the gutter?" "No, indeedy, you wa'n't. You war a an absence sweet, darling little toddler left at Massa St. tive land. Kenelm's house, all fixed up in nicesest clothes I ebber see'd."

"Then brother Albert knows I am not his sister, does he?"
"No, he don't."

"'Ca'se I nebber told him. He had a little you left in her place."

A little cry burst from the maiden's lips. "Your father—dat's ole Marsa St. Kenelm war nigh 'bout distracted when he found his little baby girl war gone, but he come to me and said: 'Shady, keep dis a secret, dis changin' ob children. I know who done de hellish deed, and I'll never cease to hunt him till I gits my chile. I will never come back till I finds her—my Octaby.' He told me to call you Octaby—jist like his chile—to treat you kindly, 'caze ye couldn't help it. He said if he didn't git back inside ob twelve years, to you and Albert de secret, and now it's told, honey.

"Why didn't brother Albert know it the

time the exchange was made?" 'He war away down South gwine to college: and when de wah broke out, he went right from de college into de army, and staid dar four long years; so de two years at college, and de four in de Confederate army, made six years," and the old negress illustrated the fact on her fingers, "and all dat time he nebber see his little sister. So when he come home, he nebber knowed but you war Octaby, you'd growed so. In de meanwhile, de news come to us dat Massa St. Kenelm had been killed by de Lincoln sojers in Arkansaw; and it war so, honey, for de whole thing war in de pa-

Octavia wept bitterly. Old Aunt Shady

wept too.

The sound of hoofed feet suddenly started them both. They raised their eyes and beheld that fearful apparition that had so startled the settlers a night or two before—that terrible creature that Dakota Dan had called a Centaur -a creature with a human head and face upon the shoulders and body of a large deer. stood upon the opposite side of the river star-ing at them with its glassy eyes and whitebearded face—so horrible, so repulsive, that the souls of the women sickened with an indescribable abhorrence, and with a scream of ter-

ror they turned and fled toward camp.

An alarm at once spread through the whole camp, and soldiers and settlers at once flew to their arms and formed in line of battle. But all became quiet when the cause of the excite-

ment became known. "What is this creature you call Centaur?"

asked Captain Rushton.

Dakota Dan described the animal, and then. accompanied by the captain and a squad of soldiers, they repaired to the river bank where the women had seen it. But, to their disappointment, they found it had disappeared Hoofprints, however, were found in the yield-ing soil along the bank, which was evidence of its having been there.

And so none the wiser, the party returned to camp.

By this time the sun was nearly down, and a gray mist was gathering in the valley. A faint noise like the rumble of distant thunder was heard afar-off in the mountains. Dakota Dan shook his head ominously.

"We're goin' to have a storm, boys, I'm afeard. You can hear the old weather-dog agrowlin' over in the mountain now. The rain nay not reach us, from the clouds, but I'll bet it 'll come a-boomin' down the river from up the mountain. But, let it come, captain; I've detarmined on one p'int, and that is to foller the track of that animal to its hidin'-place. I'm goin' to know whether it's man or beast, flesh or spirit."

"But night is coming on; how can you see to follow the track?"

"Smoke of Jerusalem, man! don't you know anything 'bout Dakota Dan, the great Triangle of the West? Humility, my dorg thar, can foller a year-ole trail, and I can foller him. Huleads, I command, and Patience, my mare here, brings up the rear in reg'lar military order. Both of 'em animals are as sagaious critters, capt'in, as ever sunk tooth or boxed American soil. Thar's good blood in them, capt'in, as ever leaped in equine or can-I could trace their pedigree cl'ar back to Noah and the ark, I sw'ar I can. But. capt'in, I'm goin'. Keep lots of guards out tonight, and then post men to watch the guards. Thar's no tellin' what 'll happen in this world."

The ranger took his dog and left the camp. The night came on dark and gloomy. wind soughed dismally through the pinons, and rumbled in hollow, sullen tones among the hills. The gathering storm moaned in the

(To be continued—commenced in No. 266.)

Too Sharp.

AN EPISODE IN THE LIFE OF A MAN OF THE WORLD.

BY MAURICE SOLOMON.

"A gentleman of means and elegant taste, aged 26, wishes to form the acquaintance of a young lady of refinement, with a view to matrimony. Address Apollo, Box 56, P.O."

WHILE leisurely scanning the morning newspaper the above advertisement met my eye. There was nothing peculiar in the wording of it that attracted my attention, for dozens of the same kind occupy space in the papers every day; but, as it were, like a flash of lightning, a whimsical idea entered my mind, which I re-

solved to execute merely for the sake of pas-

ime—"only this and nothing more."

Perhaps it will not be out of place to mention who and what I am-my name, position, occupation and the benefit I am to the world at large.

To begin with, I am an orphan. know I already have the sympathy of the reader, especially if it be one of the fair sex. Orphans, it is almost needless to say, as a gene ral thing, are objects of commiseration; wheth er I deserve to be regarded as such the sequel

My maternal parent took her departure for the unknown world when I was little more than a child. My father was a man of large means, and when he died, which was soon after my graduation from college, he left me the sole heir of an immense fortune.

I could make good and ample use of money I had always associated with polite society and, being possessed of elegant taste and education, was well qualified to enjoy my inheritance. I had studied for the legal profession, but my wish and ambition had always been to be a man of leisure; and, at my father's death, having every requisite to gratify my aspira-tions, I relinquished my legal studies, and departed for Europe, intending to make a tour of the continent. I visited all the prominent cities, beheld all the famed sights and curiosities which the Old World contains; and, after an absence of five years, I returned to my na-

Though I had been through most, if not all, phases of gayety and adventure, I was not blase when I landed in New York. Being of a happy, jovial nature, there was much which continually pleased and interested me.

I am a close observer of human nature, and it "'Ca'se I nebber told him. He had a little has always been a source of amusement to me sister Octaby, but she war taken away and to study the peculiarities and foibles of both Club life, and the society into which I immediately entered, offered a fine field in which to exercise my penchant; so, though life was one continual round of pleasure, its gayeties did not pall on me; for to me enjoynent had become second nature, and no mat ter what form it took, as long as it smacked not of grossness, I fairly reveled in it.

Such, in brief, is your humble servant George Parkhurst.

But, to return to the matrimonial advertise ment. Now, thought I, what will be better fun than replying to this notice? It will be a little amusement off the beaten track, and I'll

I was an adept in imitating the different styles of writing, therefore it would be an easy matter for me to give my penmanship a lady-like appearance. Accordingly I procured some finely tinted note-paper and envelopes, stamped with the initial letter "S," and indited the following missive:

FROM SYLPH TO APOLLO.

June 15, 186-DEAR SIR:-While perusing this morning's Gladiator your advertisement attracted my attention, and, though I know not what impelled me to take this step, I resolved to answer

I have long sought for a being that I could love, a man possessed of the finest qualities of mind and heart, but, alas! have sought in vain. Nurtured, I may say, in the lap of luxury, surrounded by people of wealth and refinement, still I am unhappy. Why? I sigh for a congenial soul—one whose every thought will respond to mine. The following lines fitly express what I would say:

'Two souls with but a single thought, Two hearts that beat as one."

I number among my acquaintances many estimable young men; but for them all I entertain no deeper feeling than ordinary friendship, for they are lacking in that indefinable omething, as it were, for which I yearn.

I may have what some would call peculiar deas upon the subject of love and marriage— I mean an exaggerated ideal in connection with both-but I shall never wed until I meet my ideal.

It is my wish that a few letters shall pass between us, and that we shall therein freely express our thoughts upon different topics, so that, before a meeting takes place, we may be able to judge if our ideas barmonize. In conclusion I will say, that I cannot analyze or account for the feeling which has prompted me to write to you, unless it is fate which is the iew I am inclined to take of this, on my part, strange proceeding; for I am an implicit be liever in fatality.

For the present I sign myself, yours, SYLPH, Box 14, P. O. FROM APOLLO TO SYLPH. June 17, 186-

My Beloved Sylph:-Pardon me if I take too much liberty at the outset in addressing ou as "my beloved," instead of dear Miss but I feel as if already you are the one who is going to fill the void in my nitherto aimless life, and make me the happiest of men. Therefore, I repeat it, if there has been any excess of freedom on my part in calling you my beloved Sylph, if you have not excused it thus far, I am sure you will ere you have finished

reading this missive. My heart throbs responsive to the pure and womanly sentiments your letter contains. I am sure that none but a noble woman could give utterance to such beautiful and whole-souled Involuntarily you have poured forth the desires of a heart that sighs for a kindred heart—that has sought for its mate in

vain. I shall not be disappointed if you are not peautiful; for it is not mere physical beauty for which I look in the woman who is to be my wife, but the nobler attributes of the mind and heart—an intense appreciation for the beautiful in nature and art, and a kind, loving disposition. All these qualities you possess, I

am sure. Your words prove that you have a sympathetic heart, and a longing for a companion in whom you can confide, and to whom you can intrust your inmost thoughts and feelings. I can assure you that by me they will be held sacred, and will be cherished as the emanations of a pure and true woman.

If it be not premature at this early stage of our epistolary acquaintance, may I request you to send me a photograph of yourself? Hoping that ere much time has winged its flight, I shall gaze upon you in propria per-I remain, lovingly yours,

APOLLO. SECOND LETTER FROM SYLPH TO APOLLO.

June 19, 186-DEAR APOLLO:-Since receiving your kind etter a change seems to have come oer my life. A feeling of happiness permeates my whole being. The world appears brighter, better, more joyful; existence more worth the having. My heart is as light as that of a bird's in springtime, and all the day snatches of song pour forth from between my lips, just as in the happy days of old when I was a joy-

ous, care-free schoolgirl. And you, my dear friend, I must thank for all this happiness. What is this unseen influence you exercise over me? I cannot define

or analyze it, neither do I seek to. I am content to rest under this blissful cloud, if I may so call the sweet, ecstatic feeling that is continually with me both day and night, asking not what the future has in store, but satisfied with the present.

I doubt not but that we have convinced each other, strange though such an assertion may be, that there already exists a mutual esteem which, in time, may possibly assume the form

of a high and fervent regard. Trusting that you will write again soonfor I am oh! so anxious to hear from you,

I remain, now, your loving SYLPH. P. S.—I inclose my photograph, and hope you will return the compliment; for, you know, a fair exchange is no robbery. SECOND LETTER FROM APOLLO TO SYLPH.

June 22, 186-MY BELOVED SYLPH: -Once again an old saying is verified—that the most interesting part of a woman's letter is the postscript. When I opened your missive I was in such flutter of excitement and eager expectation that I did not perceive that your photograph had slipped out of the folds of the paper, and

that it had fallen onto the floor at my feet.

But your P. S. informed me that you had sent t, and it required but a short search—a glance downward -before I succeeded in finding it. There you were at my feet! Entranced, I gazed upon the beautiful being whose face was upturned to mine; and I thought there was that in the expression of the portrait—a sort of yearning look—which begged for sympathy and love. I reverently took it up—for it was not meet that thou shouldst kneel at my feet, but I at thine—gazed long and fondly upon it,

when a strange, sweet feeling stole o'er me, and thrilled every fiber of heart and brain.
Suddenly, and with ecstatic joy, I pressed the picture to my lips, and showered upon it kisses burning with a chaste and holy love. The time flew by unheeded. Hours passed away, but still enraptured I gazed upon that counterfeit of your charming self. I was dreaming—"dreaming the happy hours away."

I have just finished reading "Pendennis," for the second time. I fancy you are the embodiment of all those graces of mind and heart of which Thackeray makes his sweet Laura the exponent—gentle, pure, forgiving and unself-ish, lavishing your wealth of affection upon your fellow-creature, even unto the humblest; thus gaining their good-will and friendshipreating as it were a heaven of your own glowing with love and sunshine.

En passant, I attended the opera last evening. Of course you have heard the new company in "Norma," so it is sufficient for me to say that the performance was excellent.

But I prefer the German to the Italian music. I love to listen to the dreamy, soft melodies of Beethoven, whose compositions can only be fitly described by the word divine. One of my especial favorites is his "Moonlight" sonata; and, as you ladies have a habit of expressing yourselves, it's just lovely.

Ah, darling! when shall we meet? Why prolong the time? How I long for the hour when I shall look upon you, whisper sweetest words in your ear, feel your heart beat in unison with mine, and listen to your frank, tender avowal of love. Why should we be longer separated? It is destined we shall be all in all to each other; as you say:

"Two souls with but a single thought, Two hearts that beat as one."

Ah, when you answer this, tell me that I may come, may see you, and drink to the full of my already-overflowing cup of joy. I inclose my photograph. I am not, as you

will perceive, an Apollo Belvedere, but I know you admire the qualities of heart and mind more than mere exterior beauty of person; and were I the plainest of men, you would still love me as does your loving APOLLO. THIRD LETTER FROM SYLPH TO APOLLO.

June 23, 186-My BELOVED APOLLO:-I was charmed, nay, delighted, with your last letter, and would that it had been twice as long.

I requested, in my first epistle, a moderateyour last missive, I perceive that there is no reason to prolong the correspondence, as I am satisfied that our thoughts and aspirations are congenial: and, I confess, I am anxious to behold the being who has awakened within my breast the purest and sweetest of passions-

Therefore I will meet you on Thursday next, between ten and eleven o'clock, on the upper end of the Mall, at Central Park. Till then I remain your devoted and loving

SYLPH. I must confess that my curiosity was aroused, and that I desired to see this fool of a man-for the manner in which I had deceived him, and the lavish romance his effusions betraved, convinced me that he was a sentimental fool—and witness his amazement when informed of the true state of affairs, and have a good laugh at his expense.

The appointed day was delightful and bright and I strolled through the Park toward the Mall, keeping a sharp lookout for Apollo, whose photograph and letters I carried in my pocket. I arrived at the designated spot, but among the many people walking about I did not perceive the object of my search. Presently I sat down where I could observe all who passed by. I kept my eyes on the alert, and not in vain. Probably half an hour had elapsed, when the exact copy of the photograph came slowly walking up the Mall. There was no doubt about the matter in my mind-it was certainly the gracious and lovestricken Apollo.

I followed him, and when he was a short distance up the Ramble, and we were free from observation, I stepped beside him, and

said: "Noble Apollo, I would speak with thee Behold your loving Sylph!" and I gave my long-repressed merriment full vent, and laughed till the tears poured down my face.
"Sir, what do you mean?" he cried. "I don't

understand you. Are you crazy?" "What do I mean?" I answered. "Well, my dear fellow, I pity you, but you have been most infernally taken in, and own up that I hold the winning cards," I added, good-naturedly.

"Do you intend to insult me?" he angrily exclaimed. "Explain this strange proceeding immediately, sir, or I will make you feel the weight of this cane." His face was distorted with passion, and he looked by no means the gentle creature he had made himself out in his letters.

"Perhaps I have given you good cause to be offended, but I only meant it as a joke, my friend," said I, deprecatingly, being just a lit tle afraid that he might become incensed at me, and carry his threat into execution.

"Meant what as a joke? Surely you must be insane, and I think I had better call a policeman and let him take care of you." Not wishing to become notorious through the medium of the newspapers, as a lunatic, I ment.

stopped him as he turned in the direction where a gray-coated officer stood, and drawing forth his two letters, said:

"Did you not write these and send me your photograph?"
"No, sir," he replied, after examining them, "I did not. I never saw them before, so you

are mistaken in the person." "I beg your pardon then, and hope you will xeuse, what is to you, my strange conduct," said I, somewhat abashed. Bidding him good-

morning, I walked away. Well, well, thought I, so he is not my Apollo, after all, but one who certainly bears a great resemblance to him. But what an extraordinary likeness!

I should have to make an appointment for another day, and agree upon some signal by which we might recognize each other, was the vexatious conclusion to which I came. Yes, I vas vexed at having made such a great mistake, but I was amused also; for the scene between the stranger and myself appealed strongly to my sense of the ludicrous, which, I may say, is highly developed.

As I strolled hotelward through the Park, I met a lady friend of mine, a Miss Vernon, whose acquaintance I had formed while in Europe, and we had both returned on the same steamer, so that we had become what is termed intimate acquaintances. We entered into quite an agreeable conversation; she invited me to accompany her home and take lunch with her, and having nothing better to do, I accepted the invitation.

Well, it was some time after lunch, and Miss Vernon and I were in the parlor, discussing various matters, when the door bell rung, and a visitor was shown in by the ser-

Ye gods! who do you think it was? Nobody, more or less, than my friend with whom I had the interesting meeting in the

"Mr. Grover, allow me to introduce my friend, Mr. Parkhurst," said Miss Vernon. "Mr. Parkhurst and I have had the pleasure of meeting once before, I believe," he remarked, somewhat ironically.

For a moment my usual sang froid deserted me, and I was too bewildered to say anything. 'I was at the Park this morning," observed Mr. Grover, still with his eyes bent upon me in a meaning way, "for the purpose of making a sketch of a very pretty landscape for a friend of mine who sails for Europe next week, and desires to take it with him."

"Indeed!" remarked Miss Vernon. "I was up there also, but we did not happen to meet. Won't you favor us with the 'Moonlight sonata?" she added, in the same breath.

He seated himself at the piano, and commenced to play. When he had finished, she made the following remark, which particularly attracted my attention: "Mr. Grover is a great admirer of Beethoven and Thackeray, and as I share his admi-

ration, we never tire of discussing their merits; though I myself do not profess to be a very excellent critic." "Yes," chimed in Mr. Grover, "in music my favorite is the immortal Beethoven; in

literature, Thackeray; and the composition of the former I like best is the one I have just played; and of the latter, 'Pendennis,'' How strange that I should meet a person

whom I took for Apollo, hear the Moonlight sonata, and have "Pendennis" mentioned in my presence, within a few hours! Now, Mr. Grover, thought I, as these circumstances revolved in my mind, I have got you in a tight place. To begin with, the photograph in my possession is as perfect a copy of you as could possibly exist; you are extremely fond of Beethoven and Thackeray; and, to cap the climax, you were at the Park

this morning.
What a chain of circumstantial evidence!

Many a man has been hanged on less convincing proof than that.

If you are not Ap you are not Apollo, then I'm not George

Parkhurst. You are very sharp-witted, with all your romance; and this morning, when I addressed you, it flashed upon you in a moly lengthy correspondence between us, before ment that you had been duped, and you rea meeting should take place; but, on reading solved to put a bold face on the matter and not acknowledge what a sentimental fool you had made of yourself. If you can deceive a man of the world like me, with such an array of proof before me, then I'm very much mis taken in my powers of perception. Perhaps Miss Vernon is acquainted with his handwrit-ing. By Jove! I'll wait till he departs, and then make a confidante of her. Such were my conclusions.

I was resolved not to be balked in my sport. Besides, I desired to tell the story to my friends who belonged to the same club that I did, as it would establish for me a reputation as a practical joker, a qualification upon which I rather prided myself. Call me vain, if you will; I plead guilty to the accusation.

In about an hour Mr. Grover departed. 'Excuse me," I said, "Miss Vernon, but I should like you to give me a little information

in regard to Mr. Grover." With the greatest pleasure," she replied. "He is an artist, possessed of considerable means, and a good position in society. That is about all I know of him, except that he is a gentleman of high culture and refinement."

"Thanks," said I. "Do you think this picture bears any resemblance to him?" I added, drawing the one from my pocket and handing

"Why, where did you get this from?" she asked, betraying the greatest surprise.
"Come," I answered, "I will make a con-

fidanta of you." Thereupon I told her the whole story. How she laughed! In all the days of my life I have never seen man or woman laugh so immoder-

"Now." I remarked, when I had finished, 'don't you think he's the party?" "Do I think he's the party?" she replied, her merriment nearly choking her; "of course "Why, what do you mean?" I cried,

"I mean that, now I am in full possession of all the circumstances, I can solve the mystery. You having been so kind as to make me your confidante, I will reciprocate in the same

"Would you be greatly surprised if I were to tell you that Apollo is a woman, that I am well acquainted with her, and that I knew of this delicate affair when it was first started? Excuse me for a few minutes," and she left

Well, if a thunderbolt had fallen at my feet, I could not have been more astonished than when she made that declaration about Apollo being a woman. I will tell the balance of my story in the

fewest possible words. She returned presently, and taking a seat beside me, said: "Do you recognize these?" handing me the letters and picture I had sent to Apollo, as she

spoke. "Do I recognize them? Why, of course I do. They are mine," I exclaimed, in astonish-

"Well, then, what would you think if I were to inform you that Apollo is not only a woman, but is sitting by your side—in a word, that I am he?

Two souls with but a single thought, Two hearts that beat as one,"

she said, in a mock-sentimental manner. The situation was too ludicrous, and surprise, astonishment, gave way before the fit of nerriment in which I indulged, and in which she joined me.

"Oh, dear! this is too funny for anything," she at last cried, the tears pouring from her

You would have thought we were a pair of rinning idiots. For at least five minutes we did nothing but stare at each other and laugh. When the paroxysm had spent its force, she remarked:

"Wishing to have an amusement that was omewhat novel, I put the advertisement in the Gladiator. From the numerous answers I received I selected yours as being the most intensely romantic. I had two pictures of Mr. Grover, and sent you one, which, of course, accounts for your being so certain that he was Apollo; then, by a strange coinci-dence, you met him this morning, and then again here this afternoon, when you heard subjects discussed which tended to strengthen your belief.

"I went to the Park this morning, expecting to see the romantic Sylph, but I by no means intended to speak to her, and you were also there for a similar purpose. What sport it would have been if Mr. G. had given you a slight caning!" she said, mischievously.

She continued: "It is a clear case of tit for tat. We are respectively the biters that have been bit, though I think you have fared more badly than I. We both had hopes of laughing at somebody else's folly, and we are justly punished by having the laugh turned on ourselves. Oh. Mr. Parkhurst, let us acknowledge that we are not as'cute as we thought we were; though I must say this adventure has caused

me no little amusement." I have but one more remark to add: that if there is anything in this world which I admire t is a woman who can appreciate a practical oke; and I testified my appreciation for Miss Vernon by falling in love with her, but—she



A FANCY.

BY FRANK DAVES.

Many a night have I wandered alone
Gloomy and sad along the shore
Of the wild and terrible ocean,
And listened to his roar.
And as over the moon the dark clouds flow.
And the wild sea beat on the hard dark saud,
My heart has flew o'er the dark, mad waves
To a foreign land.

To a foreign land.

To a southern land, to a southern clime,
 To a southern sea, and a southern isle,
 Where the evergreen palm trees dreamily wave,
 And nature the whole year round doth smile,
 I wander away in my waking dream.
 I step from the boat on the shining sand;
 There bounds to meet me a light footstep,
 And I am at home in a foreign land.
 Her cottage is nestled among the palms—
 A clump of palms upon the shore—
 There all day long the tropic birds,
 Lute-throated, sing, and forevermore
 To the dwellers there will rise the roar
 Of the tropic waves so glad and grand;
 And at night the moon smiles lovingly down—
 And this is my home in the foreign land.
 Together we float in our little boat

And this is my nome in the foreign land.

Together we float in our little loat

Over the waters of the bright ragoon;

Or list to the roar of the sea on the shore,
Full in the smile of the beautiful moon.

Together we walk on the golden beach,

And watch the wavelets dance on the sand;

Or gaze at the ships in the distance dim—

Oh! I'm happy, so happy in my foreign land.

The Leiter-Box.

S. B. (Shrellport) asks:

"When a party of ladies and gentlemen are together, is it proper for the ladies to accept refreshments when there are not as many ladies as gentlemen, or should the ladies leave?"

It matters not whether the ladies or the gentlemen of the party preponderate, it is perfectly proper for the ladies to accept refreshments if asked, and the party may be quite as agreeable, if general in its nature, as if composed solely of a certain number of couples, each couple engrossed wholly with each other. If there were a few ladies to many, the gentlemen would, doubtless, be only too pleased to devote themselves to two instead of one of the fair sex, and there is no reason why, under reversed circumstances, ladies should not be equally entertaining.

Frorilla L. T. (Brooklyn) writes: FLORILLA L. T. (Brooklyn) writes:

FLORILLA L. T. (Brooklyn) writes:

"For some months I have been very intimate with kind, attentive and agreeable young gentleman, this request we had exchanged rings. Not long ince a young lady friend dered me to return his ing, accompanied by a note requesting the return f mine. I did so just for fun, expecting a quarrel r letter of inquiry, so that I could "make up" rith him. Instead, he returned my ring without a rord, and has acknowledged me in the most coldly olite manner. Would it do for me to write and xplain, and ought I to add an apology?"

We think the gentleman treated you precisely as ou deserved, and you certainly owe him a note of pology and explanation, if you hope him to be on he old terms with you. Such "fun" often proves polish and sorrouty.

NED FULTON (Boston) writes:

neola terms with you. Such that otten proves foolish and sorrowful.

Ned Fulton (Boston) writes:

"I think a great deal of a lady who has several admirers. She shows me no preference, though I am inclined to think my chances as good as any. I do not wish to waste time and money, therefore do you think it would be out of place if I should write her a note, asking if we might, at some future day, become more than friends. I do not wish to propose to her, as I think our acquaintance too short. I have known her a year; intimately five months, what would you advise?"

If you have known the lady intimately five months, and about her a longer period, we should say you ought to know quite well whether you really would like to marry her. For you to write her such a note as you suggest would be to virtually propose; she could easily consider the question in that light. If your chances appear fair, just show her constant devotion for a short time, and you will be pretty well able to judge of your future success.

eess.

"New Subscriber" (Cleveland, Ohio) says:

"My complexion is rather rough and red. Do you know of anything harmless that will make it clear and white?"

Pearl white glycerine, sold by all druggists, is good, but it requires quite a process to apply it. A mixture of rose-water (one ounce), half an ounce of English glycerine, and twenty drops of carbolic acid, used upon the skin is excellent. Eat no fat food. Bathe often, and once every day wash your face in as hot water as you can bear. A fruit diet is beneficial.
"Howespun" (Madison.)

is beneficial.

"Homespun" (Madison.)

We are glad to help you with "suggestions."
Combination suits, or suits made of plain goods, sleeves and underskirt, with basque and overskirt of different goods, are the rage. Soft, neutral-tinted plaids are mostly used for the upper part of the suits, with silk or other plain material. Dress braids come in plaids to match when the whole suit is of it. Shirrings must be very firmly run by hand to look well. Knife pleatings and shirrings prevail for trimming. Many side-forms are now cut English fashion, the seams going into the shoulder seam, instead of under the arm. Dressmakers use chloroform to take spots out of dress-goods, and kerosene to clean their sewing-machines; nothing cleanses them so rapidly and thoroughly.

Kittie Bluss (Cheshire.)

KITTLE BLISS (Cheshire.)

Make you an apron of Swiss muslin to use while working upon worsteds. Make it straight, and long enough to turn it up a third upon the right side. Bind with narrow ribbon, the edge turned up, then bind it to the sides. This forms a deep pocket. Ornament with bows if you choose.

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The Brilliant Sea Story

THE FLYING YANKEE!

BY COL. PRENTISS INGRAHAM,

will commence in No. 276. A CAPITAL SUM MER ROMANCE it is-full of life, spirit and adventure, and graced with episodes of a personal nature which give an added zest to its nar-

The FLYING YANKEE was neither buccaneer pirate, nor free sea-rover, but a craft sailing under an authorized flag, and doing a work which filled the Island ports with intense excitement, and the several navies with amazement. Her commander was evidently a mystery and her career a puzzle; but, though hunted and dreaded, the craft pursued her work until the fate which overshadowed the daring captain's fortunes restored him to his lost heritage and his good name.

It will be greatly admired by all-young readers and old-and prove one of the most welcome stories of the season.

A Beautiful Love and Society Story, FROM THE NOTED

MRS. E. F. ELLET.

Author of "Alida Barrett," "The Beautiful Forger," "Madeline's Marriage," etc., is in hand for early use—the opening chapters being given in No. 278. It is a story of a young orphan girl who, possessing a fine voice, and inspired with a passion for a stage fame, pursues the hazardous path of "the boards." A firm nature and a strong will makes her persist where others would have failed, and in the

VOUNG DEBUTANTE'S CAREER

we are presented with a picture of a stage-life which is literally vivid with interest and charged with warning and instruction.

This career, however, is but one element of the work. We have, as co-equal actors, two society belles, who are types of women-one a systematic coquette and flirt, and another, her intimate friend, but very opposite in act and character. In these girls and their

MOST EVENTFUL LOVE HISTORY

the author introduces us to an inside view of society and woman's ways which is not often vouchsafed even to close observers.

A still further and more strongly dramatic interest is developed in the men who move through the narrative, viz.: the ruffianly uncle of the orphaned girl; the young lawyer who is her true guardian; the old genera the young flirt; the young musician, mad with passion for the debutante—all are parties to a drama, captivating, exciting and strange.

The Arm-Chair.

A LADY of Troy, adverting to the excellent advice given in our Letter-Box to a lady who had recognized by a bow the salute of a stranger, takes occasion to say: "Girls who respect themselves will not be seen with such young men and will decline to receive them on the familiar footing of friendship. It is a mistaken kindness to poultice when caustic is needed, and I am inclined to think that a little sharp decision on the part of the young girls of to day would go far to correct the general loose ness of morality among young men."

We are not prepared to see girls act the role of reformers; that would surely be a premature assumption of womanhood's judgment and responsibilities; but we are sure it would be far better for young ladies to becom prudes than to permit the easy approach to their acquaintance of any good-looking young It is one of the incentives which young men have to boldness in their demeanor to know that few young women or girls persistently refuse the advances of a stranger, when he seemingly pays homage to their beauty or flatters their vanity. If, as a proper etiquette demands, a lady never would smile nor bow to the salutes of non-acquaintances, it would at once correct the evil, now growing very prevalent, of insolent aggressiveness on the part of a certain class of "genteel" men, who frequent all public resorts and haunt the streets.

THE popularity of parlor dramas and private theatricals has sensibly increased during the last two years. The production of dramatic pieces and their representation calls forth a talent that is, otherwise, unused—a very high order of talent of a peculiar nature, which were well to encourage. Our old-time notions regarding the drama have changed, as our notions in other respects have been modified or rehabilitated. We used to think the drama something wrong-a bad genius which needed to be exorcised and broken; and even Shakspeare was to be read under protest. Now, however, we recognize in the stage a very natural sort of interest-a repetition, for us to look upon, of ourselves and our acts; and we see in it nothing either harmful or improper unless it is associated with what is so. In which event it is not the drama that is to be frowned upon but the accessory

In parlor and private theatrical plays we have opened to us a pastime, an intellectual scenic display, and an exhibition of personal talent all at one and the same occasion—a variety of attractions which no other human invention can parallel.

A well-known newsdealer, in a late business-

letter, takes occasion to write: "That success may still further attend your efforts to please and benefit the public by the introduction of a pure literature, is the most earnest wish of ours truly."

To have a newsman express himself thus is very gratifying. If book and newsdealers were scrupulously particular about what they sold, there would be far less complaint upon the part of those who demand what is pure. It is the bane of popular journalism that some of its exponents are unscrupulous enough to print what is of questionable morality, because there is a class who delight in such reading; but, it s greatly to the credit of the weekly papers that such journals are the exception and not the rule. Newsmen, by refusing to sell the offending papers, could quickly compel them to adopt a better class of matter. We greatly honor the newsman who will so act.

Sunshine Papers. A Jewel.

FACULTY. It is a good old-fashioned word, and an expressive one, when used as I was wont to hear it in my childhood.

"There's Mrs. Bryant orter have these children," my Aunt Mary used to say with a profound sigh and a deprecatory glance around upon my mother's progeny as we engaged in some embryo pugilisms, or demonstrated vigprously our disapproval of clean faces, "she's ot such a faculty!

It was true that the little Bryants always behaved nicely. If they objected to having their faces washed or their snarled locks straightened, their mother had simply to say in a sweet, low, firm tone, "My dear, mamma wishes it," and straightway they would have swallowed without ado all the soap-suds in the pasin, and allowed their heads to be made bald, hair by hair, I do verily believe. I suppose Aunt Mary was right; Mrs. Bryant had

'faculty."

There was Mrs Peck who always had such lovely flowers; cousin Hester said it was be-cause she had faculty. And widow Baker was always elected president of the festival, fair and donation committees because, as dear old Aunt Dolly Grinder used to put it: "Law, now! Miss Baker has sich nat'ral faculty for them sort o' things." And "Mrs. Perkins' house is always in apple-pie order," my mother used to sigh, wearily, "but then she has such facul-

I commenced to take a childish interest in this faculty that certain persons possessed. To wonder if it were not some good fairy's gift, and whether it made all things easy to the fortunate owner. To regard it as an enviable gift, a wonderful blessing, and to speculate as to the chances of attaining it.

Years have passed away and I have learned that faculty is indeed a blessing; that it is a fairy bi-th-gift, but so humble a little jewel that hundreds of persons stumble through a weary and unhappy life without finding it and putting it to use. It is this wonderful, easeful talisman but adroitness, dexterity, facility of perform ance; and this may all be reduced to a still more salient and comprehensive definition peculiar skill acquired by practice. Who is not able to learn, and then to practice? Ah! my dear, good folks, who used to talk of this woman's having such a faculty for such a thing, and that one a faculty for that, you could have had the same; practice and per-

everance, only those were needed!

There is Emma Dunn, my old friend and choolmate. I called upon her the other day and found her sewing wearily, with two little girls playing in the room, and looking very pauper-like in their attire. She welcomed me with some of the spirit of the gay girl I had romped with so often, then sunk back among ner piles of work, weary and dissatisfied.

Marriage, she said, was a great folly, unless you could get a rich husband. She hardly had time to keep her house in order she had so much sewing to do; piles of sewing from one year's end to another; and yet she never had anything decent to wear, and the children often had to stay out of school for want of clothes, and George all the time complaining he could scarcely earn money enough to support them. A sewing-machine? Well, she wanted one, but could not afford it. Yes, she knew Harry Haynes had one more child than they, and had the same salary as George, and vet that Mrs. Haynes and her little ones were always dressed nicely, even elegantly; but she lid not know how it was, except that Mrs Haynes had a "faculty for getting along." She never had any, and so she supposed she must toil and live as best she could, all her days.

Poor Emma! How easy for you to buy a nachine to save your time and strength, paying for it in monthly installments. Then, i you would do your work neatly and carefully, it would not be perpetually torn or ripped, and your garments would set so much more trim and becomingly that you would feel a pleasure in wearing them. You could easily cultivate Mrs. Haynes' "faculty for getting along." She buys some first-rate material and makes, care fully and tastefully, a good suit; when she comes home from church, or shopping, or visiting, she slips over it one of those large kitchen-aprons, so rapidly made from a yard or two of calico, or takes it off, hanging it by tapes smoothly in the closet, and puts on a comfort able calico wrapper, before she does any work; and this change is but the work of a few sec onds. She always purchases good articles, and fashions them neatly, and keeps them carefully repaired with each week's washing. She puts on stout, dark, wash-dresses to work in, and sees that her children wear out their old clothes before they spoil their new. Emma's lack of faculty lies in carelessness.

She gets anything that is cheap, makes it up in a hurry, and wears it commonly immediately. The children put on anything new as soon as bought, and consequently they never have a decent garment in their wardrobes. The dilapidated clothes are left to be mended until new ones are completed, and are soon beyond repair. So while Emma toils and frets, and the husband's purse is drained, and the children are never presentable, and all is attributed to lack of faculty, the whole secret lies, not in the wife's lack of the fairy birth-gift, but because she makes no attempt to know the tal-

With hundreds of women, and men, too, something is always going wrong, and people say of them, pityingly: "Poor creatures, they have no faculty for doing so and so!" It is false pity. Give them, instead, a hint that they own the little jewel "faculty," and that it is hidden in those choice wrappers—willingness to learn, practice, perseverance.

A PARSON'S DAUGHTER.

FUSS!

I DISLIKE fussy folks, for they are just the opposite of being agreeable and pleasant companions, and it makes one have a crawling, creeping sensation when they are about. You

are almost afraid to put your foot down anywhere lest you should be held to account for it. These over-particular people and their

prim ways never did suit me, and I presume my ways never suited them, so we are about even on that score. They always want their chairs placed in rows against the wall, just as though they were made only to be looked at and not to sit in. They are unhappy if a book is not placed exactly even on the table, and only suicide looks greet you if you drop a paper or thread on their floor. And what a todo there is if company is expected! Things are thrust into drawers and closets, helter skelter, any way so as to have them out of sight, because company are better than one's own folks—a creed you'll not get me to believe in—and they must be led to believe that you are perfect patterns of order! I often wish "company" would take a peep into the closets and see how much of a sham this neatness is, and what a deception their order turns out to

Then comes that bugbear of all bugbears to me, the "best room," which is as somber as a receiving vault. Horrors! What a chill it gives you to cross the threshold and see, through the small ray of light, how much comfort might be had here, but where comfort seldom comes. It is only when company makes its appearance that it is used. It is too good for one's own family—what a nonsensical idea!—it would be sacrilege for the family to sit there, so there are weeks that it is kep closed; even God's blessed sunlight is refused an entrance. Perhaps the furniture, carpet mirrors, piano and books have been procured by pinching and scraping, and all for others asure, and not for one's own comfort. What, in patience's name—you see I am get-ting a little excited; I always am on this subject—is the use of having good things if you don't enjoy them? Are we not to enjoy the comforts we prepare for others? Ugh! that best room! It gives me the nightmare to think of it, even now.

When I first made the acquaintance of one of these horrors, and was shown its beauties, I asked the lady who owned it why she didn't make more use of it. She answered that it was reserved for company, and she never allowed any one to enter it—that was, of her own family, except when visitors were there. She said they used the living room for themselves. I wasn't a very big girl then, and I said I should call the "best room" the dead one if it was kept closed so much. As I have grown older I have not outgrown that idea for it strikes me yet that it is a pretty true We can keep our house neat and clean, at all times, but to have everything so prim and so—so—so fussy, and all for "company," is a bitter pill for me to swallow.

Well, I left that dreary, gloomy best room, and glad enough I was to do so, and went out into the beautiful fields, feeling thankful to breathe the pure air of heaven once more, and that there was no best room to take away the loveliness of nature—that the leaves of the trees might fly here and there, and no one complain of the clutter and confusion they made. They were no blemishes, but beauties But to these fussy folks they were disagree ables and eyesores. I only wish they had to live among them, for I feel sure they would like them better.

I cannot believe that fussy folks are happy, for they must be kept in one continual worry for fear there'll be a speck of dust somewhere about.

Are men folks ever fussy? I have seen some specimens that would put to the blush the fussiest woman on record, but as a general thing I don't think they are so much as my own sex, although I feel ashamed to acknowledge it. don't think the men folks care quite so much for a little confusion, and, what is more, they haven't the time to attend to any such non sense as primness, and that's where I feel like giving three cheers for them. If I were a man, and there was a best room in the house in which I wasn't allowed to put my foot save when company honored it with its pre-sence. I d just take my hat and cane, and fine comfort in the nearest saloon. I'd be des perate enough to do it, and I would do it, too! When I hear of a young man finding com-

fort and pleasure in the billiard-rooms and drinking-saloons, I say to myself-"I know the principal reason for his doing so. It is because his folks are 'fussy,' and there is a best room in his house." EVE LAWLESS.

Foolscap Papers. New Steamship Line.

I HAVE opened a new line of steamships to Europe, which will be called the Bee Line from the fact that it is designed to follow the line which the bees take to Europe, laid out and staked after their footsteps in the air, by reliable engineers.

Passengers are requested to drop a line, and in fact all other lines, and take this line, which will be the largest affoat.

Only one vessel at present has been finished under my own supervision. When the whole number is completed they will form a continuous line from New York to Europe, and passengers can walk the whole of the way and carry their baggage. This will be the only line which will afford this beautiful facility to rich people in pursuit of foreign pleasures.

This first steamship of the line is of three thousand horse-power-that is to say, that number of horses will be required to draw it, or their equivalent in mules.

It is constructed with a view to safety and comfort, and to prevent rocking it has no rockers on it, and there will be no pitch to it either for people can rely on my word that there has been no pitch used in its construction.

It stays perfectly level on the surface and

don't roll, from the fact that I have put an excellent granite foundation under it, and it makes it as steady as a fellow without money. Money couldn't pay for this new invention in shipbuilding.

To make this ship run fast it has been pro

vided with legs on each side, and it will walk right ahead of any other vessel constructed upon the old fogy principle of navigation. It is built in two sections, so that if, in a storm of great caliber and tempestuosity, one part goes down the other can sail right along

as if nothing material had happened—a very desirable feature—if your wife's aunt happens to be in the other part. Patent applied for.

This ship is provided with an elegant log cabin of the Indiana pattern, with all the con-

veniences of the latter, including a large fireplace and clapboard roof. If a terrific storm which the captain can't control, should arise on its hind legs, this ship is so built that it can be scuttled and sunk in

since philosophers of my acquaintance say there is no wind along the bottom of the sea. The passengers will rest there until the storm above has abated. The ship will then be raised with a derrick, and if the passengers express a

ten minutes, a very desirable feature also

desire to continue their voyage they can go on, rejoicing if possible.

If any passenger thinks this ship don't go fast enough he will be allowed the privilege of jumping overboard and walking the balance of the way, he paying his own expenses.

The bulwarks will be entirely independent of the steerage, and steerage passengers will be expected to assist in steering the ship.

Life-preservers in the shape of a cork in

oottle each passenger is expected to have. If this ship turns over on one side it will be one of the easiest ships in the world to turn

oack again, because it is so nicely balanced.

The captain of this ship will not only command the vessel, but will also command the respect of the passengers, and his orders will be promptly obeyed, or somebody is going to get out of repair.

People who talk so much are expected to do so just abaft the sails to increase the speed of If this ship gets stuck on the top of a moun-

tain wave, and is in danger of staying there the rest of the season, it will be let down with ropes and pulleys with great facility.

This ship is expected to make such speed that the distance will be shortened two thousand

As the day travels west, and the ship goes

east, daylight will only be a few hours in duration, so fast she will sail. If any passenger falls overboard he will

have to run pretty fast to catch up with the This vessel will have India-rubber overcoats

tied all around it (pockets sewed up) to keep it from getting wet and being water-soaked. The very finest kind of weather boarding has been used in its construction, and it is shingled in a carpenterlike manner. If a hole is stove in the side (a very large

cast-iron stove, say) another hole will be stove in the other side to let the water run out as fast or faster than it runs in. This is a suggestion purely my own.

Every precaution will be used to keep swells off the ship. Swells on land will please take notice.

Every delicacy of the territory through which we sail will be on our tables. The speed will be forty very hard knots an

If the vessel should never be heard of more the passengers are requested to be in the list of survivors—a thing which passengers on other lines are not permitted to do.

The hind part of this ship is just like the fore part: so if the bow is stove off the ship can be reversed and go on without any trouble; or in case of necessity it can go both ways at

Passengers for the steerage will apply at the office on the pierage. Sail to commence promptly at noon, June

WASHINGTON WHITEHORN, Captain.

Woman's World.

WHAT WE SEE ON THE STREET.

WE continue to note what our "best dressed omen" have adopted, and what one sees in a promenade up and down Broadway on a bright

Instead of the sacques worn last year with eashmere overdresses, many of the skirts are accompanied by a mantle or cape that may

be worn with any dress.

Ladies who wish to modernize plain basques, or change cuirasses into the new fashion, can now do so by adding to the lower part of the two middle forms a straight piece of silk, laid in from twenty to twenty-five fine plaits. Breast-pockets are again in vogue, and there are also reticule pockets made to bulge out as if the oval pouch was nearly filled.

Knife plaiting is very tastefully used to trim basques. It is made as fine as crimping, and is afterward placed in rows across the front. Four or five rows of plaiting trim the wrist of each sleeve.

cut long, front and side breadths are drawn straight across, the fulness gathered into all kinds of artistic drapery at the back, surmounted by sash, bows and ends, and by the round cuirass basque.

Young girls at the watering-places this summer will wear for croquet dresses striped linen and berege suits, the linen forming the under skirt and the berege the overdress, trimmed with linen of a solid color—the color harmonizing with the principal stripe of the under

skirt. The new gloves are purely Quaker in style —long, plain, in all shades of gray and brown, without stitching or ornament of any kind. Three buttons are usually adopted for street wear, four for receptions and six for evening wear. The English lisle thread, finished the ame as kid, and long upon the wrists, only to be had in soft drab, gray and stone colors, are already in great demand, and form a useful summer glove for those who cannot wear kid in warm weather.

Bonnets, or rather hats, have resolved themselves into three styles—the black chip, the white chip and the Panama. They are all large, and partake of the Rubens shape, with ipward brim, which is lined and faced with flowers or feathers, in order to occupy the space, and prevent the bold, staring appearance which they would otherwise possess The Panama is the newest, if not the most popular, hat of the season. It is light, cool, serviceable, can be pressed in, but not out of shape by any amount of rough usage, and has the most valuable quality of all, a distinctive character which cannot be imitated. They are best trimmed simply, but richly, with paleblue, or unbleached white damask silk, or soft serge ribbon, a twist of silk and some pale roses under the brim, or wreath of daisies, or white lilac, if the wearer is young. Outside, a group of ostrich feathers or a puff of soft silk, with a gold or silver filagree buckle at the left side.

LOVE gives itself, but is not bought. The expression of truth is simplicity. Nothing is intolerable that is necessary.

Bounty, being free itself, thinks all others so. All flowers will droop in absence of the sun nat waked their sweets The imagination is of so delicate a texture

that even words wound it. The mind wears the colors of the soul as the valet does those of his master.

Sin is the fruitful parent of distempers, and Il lives occasion good physicians. Prosperity seems to be scarcely safe, unless be mixed with a little adversity.

Weariness can snore upon the flint when restive sloth finds the downy pillow hard. Truth is the shortest and nearest way to our end, carrying us thither in a straight line. He who surpasses or subdues mankind must

ook down on the hate of these below. Frank sincerity, though no invited guest, is free to all, and brings his welcome with him.

Readers and Contributors.

To Correspondents and Authors .- No MSS, received that are not fully prepaid in postage.—No MSS, preserved for future orders.— Usavailable MSS, promptly returned only where stamps accompany the inclosure, for such return.—No correspondence of any nature is permissible in a package marked as "Book MS."—MSS, which are mperfect are not used or wanted. In all cases our choice rests first pon merit or fitness; second, upon excellence of MS. as "copy"; hird, length. Of two MSS. of equal merit we always prefer the shird, length. Of two MSS. of equal merit we always prefer the shorter.—Never write on both sides of a sheet. Use Commercial Note size paper as most convenient to editor and compositor, tearing off each page as it is written, and carefully giving it its folio or page number.—A rejection by no means implies a want of merit. Many MSS. unavailable to us are well worthy of use.—All experienced and popular writers will find us ever ready to give their offerings early attention.—Correspondents must look to this column for all information in regard to contribution. We can experience the respective of the r in regard to contributions. We can not write letters except in special

The following contributions we must, for various reasons, decline, and return such as held stamps inclosed: "A Woman's Vengeance;" "Pat and the Bull;" "A General Fraud;" "Daniel Carredon's Heroism;" "Three Minutes of Fame;" "A Seacomber's Story;" "The Portuguese Plot;" "A Warning;" "Mrs. Tracy's Lost Ring;" "Sport and Play;" "Dan Robbin's Big Race with a Racer."

We use "To Augusta;" "The Dad Brig;" "A

We use "To Augusta;" "The Dead Brig;" "A Spice of Evil;" "The Heart that Won;" "A Rosy Day;" "Two Loves in One;" "A Mercy in Shadow;" Old Sykes' Victory."

L. Warson. The word "comet" is taken from the Greek, and its meaning is "a hairy star."

FRIENDS and I. We have the reproduction of The Phantom Princess" under consideration. JIM FLINN. The stories of the Dick Taibot series we cannot supply, and may yet have to reprint them in cheap book form.

To several inquirers we answer that J. Blanchard, Chicago, Ill., has a complete set of this paper, from its first issue, for sale.

ALEX S. Printers usually serve a three years' pprenticeship, but none "master the trade thoroughly" in that time. Printers average, at present prices, from \$15 to \$30 per week. A fair English ducation is very desirable in the trade.

education is very desirable in the trade.

Paducah Solicitor. The drink called "lamb's wool" was once a famous liquor with the common people of the South. It was made of ale and roasted apples, the pulp of the apples being worked up with the ale till the whole drank smoothly.

Almer. A good treatment for sore throat is a gargle of chloriate of potash. Paint the throat at night with tincture of iodine. Be very careful about going out in the night air. Dews and mists inhaled are prolific sources of throat diseases.

about going out in the night air. Dews and mists inhaled are prolific sources of throat diseases.

Lizzie Bradford. We know of no process or remedy which will remove the "pits" of small-pox. To cleanse the hands of a scurf skin, use a weak solution of potash, or a little borax water, or lemon juice, or rub on the pulp of a ripe tomato two or three times daily.

Just Married Maria. The "Roman" brooches are all the vogne. The style is large, and rather ancient in appearance. They are made of porcelain or china, upon which are beautifully painted unique designs; the edge is bound in French gilt; the shape is generally oval. The prices range from \$2.50 to \$3. Sleeve-buttons come to match.

PUTTER BOY. There are several good recipes for whitewash, fit for fences and outbuildings. This is one of them: Slack a half-bushel of lump lime in a clean barrel. When the lime is thoroughly dissolved add 2 pounds sulphate of zinc and 1 pound of salt. If a cream color is desired add 3 pounds yellow ocher. Thin to a proper consistency and apply with common whitewash brush. Two coats are necessary to a "good job."

H. H. G. To celebrate the anniversaries of all the battle of the god Ware of the Broultion would

H. H. G. To celebrate the anniversaries of all the battles of the old War of the Revolution would be impossible. Burgoyne surrendered to Gates Oct. 13th, 1777, and Cornwallis surrendered Oct. 13th, 1781. The men engaged in these two conflicts were meager in numbers as compared with the armies of our late civil war or the armies of Germany and France.

mies of our late civil war or the armies of Germany and France.

Young Star. We gave a reliable table, a few weeks since, of the fastest trotting time of American horses. The best time of the horses you name being over 2:20 we did not give. It is as follows: Membrino Gift, 2:20; Mountain Boy, 2:2034; Jay Gould, 2:21½; George Wilkes, 2:22; G. M. Patchen, 2:23½; Commodore Vanderbilt, 2:25; Ethan Allen, 2:25. Three best heats on record—2:19½, 2:16½, 2:16—Goldsmith Maid. Four best heats on record—2:18, 2:17½, 2:17, 2:9—Gloster (first heat dead with Red Cloud.) Two best heats—2:19½, 2:14—Goldsmith Maid. Best two miles on record—4:50½—Flora Temple. Best three miles—7:21½—Huntress. SEAMAN. We can only speak from hearsay regarding the size of Noah's ark; but it is said to have been smaller than the Great Eastern; it had three decks; it was divided into numerous compartments; the material of which it was built was gopher wood; its model was chest like!

Youthful. Star-Gazer. Some comets require

YOUTHFUL STAB-GAZER. Some comets require 110,000,000 of our years to complete the circuit of their flight. In the year 1846 the earth passed through a comet's tail—and in 1860 it passed through the tail of another, causing a beautiful auroral display. TILLIE G. Sage leaves placed in closets and pan-

LAURA I. You can restore your black silk dress n a great measure by sponging it carefully with pirits of wine, diluted with a little water; then ron on wrong side, keeping a piece of muslin between the iron and silk.

ANATOMICAL. At the age of 15 you have 160 bones and 500 muscles; your blood averages 25 pounds in weight; your heart is 5 inches in length and 3 in diameter; it beats about 70 per minute, and a little over 2 ounces of blood is thrown out at each beat; your lungs contain a gallon of air, and you inhale daily 24,000 gallons; your nerves are supposed to be 10,000,000 in number! P. T. The Bronze age of the prehistoric man covers a period of 4,000 years: the Stone age, prior to that, from 5,000 to 7,000 years, while the burnt brick found in the alluvium of the Nile, 60 feet below the surface, indicate over 20,000 years; also, another fragment at 72 feet deep claims an antiquity of 80,000 years, and certain geologists reckon 500,000 years to have passed since flints and workmanship of human art were buried in a stalagmite cave in Torquay.

A. A. Carter desires to know how the expression "Mne tailors make a man" originated; it is said that in 1742 an orphan boy applied for alms at a tailor's shop in London, where there were nine journeymen tailors employed, who were so pleased with the appearance of the youth that they at once gave nine shillings for his relief; purchasing fruit with his capital, he retailed it at a fair profit, and in time he became a wealthy tradesman, and on his carriage-door had painted in a circle around his initial this motto: "Nine tailors made me a man."

initial this motto: "Nine tailors made me a man."
Schoolboy of Orange. Light travels at the rate of 187,000 miles per second, but this speed, when applied to the infinite spaces of the universe, is no greater, comparatively, than the speed of a horse is compared to the measurable relations of things on the earth. Distances in the universe are so inconceivably vast that light seems slow in its movements from star to star. Thus, if one of the nearest of the fixed stars—beautiful Capella, were to-day blotted out, it would be seventy-one years before we here, on the earth, would witness the disappearance—it taking light that time to traverse the distance. And yet there are known stars one thousand times more remote than Capella! To traverse the sidereal world of which we form part (the Milky Way) light takes 10,000 years. To reach us from certain of the nebulee it must travel for three times that period, or 5,000,000 of years. Well may it be said that our earth and all it contains is but as a sand on the illimitable beach of the infinite sea.

ARCTIC READER. The Laplanders are by no means an unintelligent people. The reindeer lives and greatly thrives on grass in summer and moss in winter. This sociable and most useful creature is absolutely essential to the Laps' existence. With its skin he makes his clothing, shoes, gloves; with its skinews his thread. He feeds on its flesh, and the animal is his beast of burden. The value of the reindeer varies according to the country. Driving reindeer, broken to the harness, are not very plentiful, and cost from \$10 to \$15 each; a common one from \$4 to \$6.

common one from \$4 to \$6.

STUDENT. For descriptions of China and Chinese at home life you had better consult histories of that land. However, here is a photograph of that strange empire which we find at hand. It is a country where the roses have no fragrance and the women no petiticoats; where the laborer has no Sabath, and the magistrate no sense of honor; where the roads bear no vehicles and the ships no keels; where old men fly kites; where the needle points to the south, and the sign of being puzzled is to scratch the attipodes on the heel; where the place of honor is on the left hand, and the seat of intellect is in the stomach; where to take off your hat is an insolent gesture, and to wear white garments is to put yours-if in mourning; which has a literature without an alphabet, and a language without a grammar.

grammar. Unanswered questions on hand will appearent week.

"JUNE."

BY FRANK M. IMBRIE.

She came so still, we scarce could hear the rustle Of opal garments, draped with filmy gauze; So swift, we caught but aureate glint and shimmer; So near; then gone, with but a moment's pause. Like memoried joy, that smiling, bids us catch it, Then mocking, taunts us, as it luring draws.

She oped her volume, bound in gold and azure, Scattering its leaves, by zephyr's weird unrest; Some, fluttering earthward, dotted lawn and mea-

dow, Bequeathing hues, to deck her emerald crest; some, 'neath the heavens, unrolled their sapphire

Till earth and sky was garbed in gorgeous dress. She filled the blossoms' chalice, proffered to her, With rippling draughts of odorous, sunshin

When dreamy languor stole she gave elixir
From crystal dews, wooed from the summertime
Then whispered to the noters, pulsing softly,
To "Ring her triumph in the flower-bell's chime.

As twinkling vespers cleft the twilight quiet, And bird-notes rippled 'down wood arches a An unseen presence lit the bright star-tapers. To guard the slumbers of this summer quee Thile Luna folded 'round her dreamless treasure Her own soft robe of radiant, studded sheen.

Her burnished shield made brooklets fret their borders,
Where feathery cresses slake their living thirst;
But gloaming cooled their waveless, placid surface,
Tells of no noonday strife, no tempest-burst.
So we, in life's sweet June-time, pause and question
If hope's bright blooms could be by blight accursed.

Some sunbright Junes we listened to the voices Of moonlight, sunlight, blossoms, breezes, love, Then, all unwilling, heard the cadence troubled, Vibrating, as with flight of wounded dove; But then, as now, some cheering, blithesome processes.

Swung hope-lit lamps in the blue arch above

"Whose Was the Sin?"

BY MARY REED CROWELL.

"PROMISE me! promise me, the last words I shall ever hear in this world! Swear, by your hope of meeting me again at the judgment-seat, that you never, never will touch a glass of wine! It goes with the Milford blood, on the women's side, and you're a Milford outand-out! Swear it, Edith—to your dying mother, that you never will follow the awful courses of your dead-and gone ancestors.

The voic rung out sharp, agonized; the brilliant, glassy eyes gleamed momentarily; and Edith Milford shivered with horror and pain and sorrow as her quivering lips made an-

"Mother-vou know I never will touch wine. Have I ever? must the Milford taint necessari-

You haven't seen as much as I have seen. Edith! Give me your oath to take to my grave with me-swear it-never touch it! Edith, be

quick!"

The voice suddenly failed, and the gaunt fingers groped for Edith's hand in an eager, entreating way.

"Mother, mother—anything—I swear itmother!—for God's sake speak to me again!"

A brief, contented smile flitted radiantly over the faded face, and then—Edith Milford was an orphan; alone, in all the world, and dollars in her possession. beautiful girl, graceful as a lily, gentle and tender as a child, and with the cursed blood of the Milfords running in her blue veins! God pity her!

An elegant room, draped in light azure silken flutings, and furnished in regally luxuriant

A portly, self-possessed lady reclining in a capacious blue damask divan, toying with the silver fringes, and seemingly vastly enjoying the wide-eyed, delightful wonder on Edith Milford's face as her dark-gray eyes glowed to liquid blackness while she took in the elegant luxury of the room.

"Well, child-will it suit you? do you think you can be content here with only your uncle

Mrs. Gardner smiled kindly as she spoke, and Edith's eves overflowed with thankful "Oh, aunt Mary! please never ask me if I

can be content. Rather make me be all my life trying to prove my gratitude to you in giving me a home where everything exceeds my wildest dreams!" "It is your uncle and I who feel grateful to

you, dear, for consenting to come and add the charm of youth to our lonely, dreary elgance. What's the good of wealth with no one to share or enjoy it? And since poor Nora died, I have been determined her child should be my child, to compensate partly for the long, sad estrange ment between us, that began long before you when she would persist in marrying Roy Milford, whom everybody knew was on the down-track every drinking-man takeswhom every one prophesied would end just as he did—just as all the family did—women and all. But that's all past-long ago, and we won't talk of it any more. Come sit by me dear, and let's plan for our summer tour. Shall it be Niagara or Newport first?"

And so Fairyland seemed suddenly to have opened its golden gates to the dazed, enchanted girl, about whom already people were rav-Men over her beauty, women about her costumes, her style, her sweetness.

"You are nearly perfect to-night, Edith. Your dress is a marvel, and Cerise has certainly charmed every hair in your coiffure. Turn around, child, let me see if the sash is draped

Mrs. Gardner's watchful eyes could find no flaw in the elegant toilet, white-beaded silk grenadine, that glistened like dewdrops with

the slightest movement of her body.
"You look well," she said, slowly, content edly, "perfect, except a paleness I don't quite like. Where are your roses, child?"

Edith laughed. 'I think the excitement of expecting to meet the wonderful Mr. Leamington must have banished them. I have heard of other young ladies who fainted at the honor-after it was

over. An indulgent smile beamed on Mrs. Gardner's face.

'Such nonsense! although I will say, Edith, there isn't Mr. Leamington's match in the city

and the girl who secures him will be the everlasting envy of all the rest. "A desirable fate, certainly, auntie. Now, am I ready to go forth to break lances with

this paragon of men?" All but your roses. We must conjure dainty pink to your cheeks, for I have heard

Mr. Leamington say he especially admired a faint bloom.

'Not paint, auntie? I never will do thatneverl

Mrs. Gardner smiled at her girlish earnest-

"Certainly not paint, child. I detest lily white and carmine as you do. No—you only need a slight stimulant to call up a little ex-

citement, and then-the carnation will bloom to Mr. Leamington's entire satisfaction, I'll

As she spoke, Mrs. Gardner poured a tablespoonful of red port into a tiny crystal champagne-glass, and handed it to Edith. There are your roses, my dear; why-why

She paused in sheer amazement. If Edith had been pale before, she was ghastly now; and her eyes were full of horror and disgust. "Take it away—oh, auntie, take it away! wouldn't touch it for a fortune!"

Mrs. Gardner looked steadily at her. "I don't quite understand you."

The tears rushed to Edith's eyes. "I made my mother a promise on her dy-ing bed never to tempt the curse that may be dormant in my blood. Dear auntie, you are very kind, and I thank you, but, don't you see, I cannot do it?"

A slow, sarcastic smile crept around Mrs. Gardner's lips, and when she spoke, it was in a slightly contemptuous voice Edith had never

dreamed could proceed from her.
"I am not romantic myself, so I fail to appreciate your feelings. However, I do know I feel deeply wounded to think you would sup-pose me capable of offering you an injury." She set the glass quietly down on her dress

ing-bureau, Edith watching her with quivering lip, cut to the quick by this sudden cool-

"Auntie, dear, please don't be angry with e! You know how I love you, how grateful I am to you, how I wish to always please and

obey you."
"It is not necessary to plead your excuse,
Edith. I merely remarked I feel keenly that
you could, for a moment, suppose me capable of doing anything that would not add to your welfare

A strange, almost wild look came into her "Aunt Mary-you think it will be for my

welfare?" Her voice was inexpressibly strange; a low, hesitating, hoarse noise, frightfully unlike its

ustomary music. Mrs. Gardner smiled frigidly. "Is it likely, after all I have tried to do for you, I would deliberately seek to harm you? Faugh! the miserable subject is worn disgust-

ingly threadbare." And you would be pleased if I obeyed you, aunt Mary! I owe you obedience, don't I?"
Still the same constrained voice; the breath

oming in gasps. "It is not a question of obedience or courte You have impugned my motive, and l am hurt."

One second of wild, whirling agony; one cond, when the girl was shivered betw two tempests, when it seemed duty urged both ways; and then-alas! for the mother in her grave! alas! for the taint in the Milford blood she swallowed the luscious, mellow wine!

You must be right, auntie. I feel stronger and braver already. Forgive me, will you, dear auntie? Mrs. Gardner relented then; her victory

was complete. "You foolish darling! as if I, who love you better than all the world, would withhold my pardon or do you harm! Now go, dear! the carriage is waiting, and the roses blooming for Mr. Leamington's admiration. Good luck go with you!"

That was the first of it. "My darling, if you would only listen to Dr. Starivelle! He assures me all you need is a few weeks in the country where there is ab-

John Leamington leaned lovingly over his wife's couch—a dainty, white silken affair, on which Edith lay, her face flushed, her beauti ful face sharpened and querulous, and her lovely liquid gray eyes shadowed by an almost impalpable strangeness—and yet John Leamington saw it, with a deathly sinking of his fond, true heart, that he had given unhesitatingly to Edith Milford, the first time he met her, a radiant, charming girl in shining white attire, with a glowing blackness in her wonderful eyes, and a delicious, fleeting, peachy tint on her round cheeks.

That had been a year ago; and now, Edith, the wife of six months, the idol and darling of her husband, lay on her invalid couch, flushed but not with health; feverish, irritable, petu

Mr. Leamington sat beside her, earnest grave, thoughtful, watching the evanescent beauty on her face, and wondering, as he caught glimpses of that unearthly shadow in her bright eyes, if it were really true that Dr. Starivelle had spoken the truth when he as sured him that "nothing serious was the matter with Mrs. Leamington, nothing whatever Only a little nervous prostration—the result of her charmingly-performed and arduous duties as queen of society; a little chronic rest ssness and excitement that a few weeks of perfect respite would positively dispel.

told Edith this, in his tender, thoughtful way: I will secure you the best of attention, if you will go down to Merrivale, dear. It is a

lovely spot, quiet, restful—just what you need. And I will come every night, so you will not An irritable frown corrugated her fore-

"It would be the death of me, John! The very idea of such a place makes me shudder. I know better than Dr. Starivelle what my system needs. I must have excitement—ex itement all the while. Quiet kills me. John, lease give me my tonic—it is eleven o'clock

A troubled look at his wife's words crossed his face, as he passed a wine-glass of ic," rich, delicious port, prescribed by Dr. Starivelle, to stimulate appetite and generally "tone" the system. Edith took it in her trembling hands and drank it almost greed-

'Port always helps me, John, and this is rarely good.

She gave him one of her old, sweet smiles. "You evidently have an appreciative taste,' he returned, gayly—that smile had delighted him into momentary forgetfulness of his un

"Indeed, I can appreciate any and all good things, yourself the best of all, my dear, kind husband, and you mustn't send me off in the miserable, stupid country; keep me home here, where I can have my drive in the Park every day, and my shopping-time, and my port

regularly. I may stay, mayn't I?"

And with her arms around his neck, John Leamington promised. Is there a man who

John Leamington stood face to face with Dr. Eldred—the most renowned physician that New York city boasts of; his face pale as ashes, his features working in convulsive agony.

Dr. Eldred was calm, pitiful, fatefully earnest, as his doomful words fell on the husband's

"It gives me pain to say it, Mr. Leamington, and God knows I would spare you the slightest pang. But when I know your wife is dving of intemperance, when I remember she comes of Milford stock, and when I know your own physician is ignorantly feeding her faster to death, I feel there must be no evasion of the terrible question. Mrs. Leamington is fated to die, and soon. God pity yeu both!" The husband staggered into a chair, his very

nanhood struck by this terrible blow. "There is nothing—no hope—no—"
Dr. Eldred laid his hand on his throbbing

pulse. "Unless Heaven's mercy takes her in some other sudden way—there is no hope. Try to bear it; remember she is hardly to blame. Remember the awful legacy she had, and always

Afterward, John Leamington went away; never again the same man that had entered Dr. Eldred's office.

He walked home in a dazed, uncertain way, and people looked pityingly at him as he pass-ed, and once, on his unheeding ear, fell a word of commiseration from a lawyer, on a cor-

"How hard he takes it, don't he? He must have heard it down at the office. At his door Dr. Starivelle met him, solemn portly, resigned.
"Bear it like a man, Leamington, and re-

member she never knew what hurt her. Con-cussion of the brain—positively painless." Leamington stared helplessly at him, and a sudden suspicion darted into the doctor's

Good Heavens-haven't you heard?-your wife—didn't you see the messenger I sent to tell you of the accident at the Rink?" Leamington's white lips moved feebly.

"Is Edith dead?" The doctor gazed curiously at him a moment hen wrung his hand sympathetically. "Poor fellow-Edith is dead."

A moment of blinding agony; then, a radiance shot over his face.
"Thank God!" And to this day, Dr. Starivelle never knows the cause of that strange thanksgiving.

Victoria:

THE HEIRESS OF CASTLE CLIFFE.

BY MRS. MAY AGNES FLEMING. AUTHOR OF "THE DARK SECRET," "AWFUI MYSTERY," "THE RIVAL BROTHERS," ETC.

CHAPTER XIII.—CONTINUED.

"HURRAH for Tom Shirley!" said a laugh ing voice in the crowd, and "Hurrah! hurrah nurrah for Tom Shirley!" shouted the multi tude, catching the infection, until the tall May pole, and the ground under their feet, seemed to ring with the echo. It was all so sudden and so stunningly loud, that the May Queen half-startled, snatched away her hand, and looked round her bewildered, and even Tom Shirley was startled, for that giant gazed round at the yelling mob, completely taken

aback by his enthusiastic reception.
"What the demon do the good people mean Have they all gone mad, Barbara, or do they intend making a May Queen of me, too?"

"They certainly ought, if they have any taste!" said the girl. "But do let me look at you again, and make sure that it is really Tom

Tom doffed his Scotch cap and made her a courtly bow. "Certainly! Your majesty may look as much as you like. You won't see anything better worth looking at, if you search for a

month of Sundays. I promise you that!"

The young lady, trying to look grave, but with a little smile rippling round her red lips, began at the toes of his Wellington boots, scrutinized him carefully to the topmost kink of his curly head, and recommencing there, go down to the soles of his boots again, before

she was prepared to vouch for his identity. "It is yourself, Tom! Nobody else in the world was ever such a Brobdignag as you! If you had only come a little earlier, you might have saved them the trouble of seeking a May pole; and just fancy how pretty you would look, twined round with garlands of roses, and a crown of silver lilies on your head!

Mr. Tom drew himself up to the full extent of his six feet, four inches, and looked down on the dark, bright, beautiful face, smiling up

at him, under the white roses. "Well, this is cool! Here, after four years absence, during which I might have been dead and buried, for all she knew, instead of weloming me, and falling on my neck, and embracing me with tears, as any other Christian

would do, she commences the moment she claps eyes on me, calling me names, and loading me with opprobrium, and—"
"Oh, nonsense, Tom! You know I am real glad to see you!" said Barbara, giving him her neck. I would have to climb up a ladder or a fire-escape first, to do it. But there, the band is playing the 'Lancers,' and everybody is staring at us; so do, for goodness sake, ask me to dance, or something, and let us get out of

With all the pleasure in life, Miss Black,' said Tom, in solemn politeness. "May I have the honor of your hand for the first set? Thank you! And now-but first, where's- Oh, yes, Miss Black, permit me to presen this youthful relative of mine, Mr. Leicester Cliffe, of Cliffewood, late of everywhere in general and nowhere in particular—an amiable young person enough, of rather vagabondish of him yet. Mr. Cliffe, Miss Black.

You villain! I'll break every bone in your oody!" said Mr. Cliffe, in a savage undertone to his friend, before turning with a profound bow to Barbara, whose handkerchief hid an ir-Mr. Tom Shirley too well to give any credit to anything he says. May I beg the honor of

"You may beg it, but you won't get it," in-cerrupted Tom. "She is mine for the next set, and as many more as I want—ain't you, Barbara?

"For the second then, Miss Black? I'll not leave you a sound bone from head to foot!" said Mr. Cliffe, changing his voice with startling rapidity, as he addressed first the lady and then the gentleman.

"With pleasure, sir," said Barbara, who wa dying to laugh outright.

And Mr. Leicester Cliffe, favoring her with

another bow, with a menacing glance at his companion, walked away. Sic transit gloria mundi! They're waiting for us, Barbara," said Tom, making a grimace after his relative.

And Barbara burst out into a silvery and uncontrollable fit of laughter.
"Tom, I'm ashamed of you! And is that really Mr. Leicester Cliffe?"

him, pray?' "Nothing. There! he is our vis a-vistually with Caroline Marsh. I have had the honor of seeing him once before in my life—

that is all!" Where?"

"There is a picture at Cliffewood, in the hall, of a pretty little boy, with long, yellow curls and blue eyes, that I have looked at many time-first, with you and Miss Vic, and afterward when I went there alone; and I saw him on several occasions when he was here six

"Six years ago? Why that was just after you came to Lower Cliffe at first; and I was here then, and I don't remember anything about it."

"No, I know you don't; but the way of it was simple enough. You, and Miss Vic, and Lady Agnes, and Colonel Shirley, and Miss Margaret, all left the castle three months after came to live here—you to Cambridge, Miss Vic to her French convent, Miss Margaret to a London boarding-school, and Lady Agnes and the colonel to Belgium. Do you compre-

"Slightly."
"Well, let us take our place then, for the quadrille is about to commence. Sir Roland was going away, too, to Syria—was it not? And Mr. Leicester came down from Oxford to spend a week or two before his departure; and saw him most every day then, and we were

excellent friends, I assure you. "Were you? That's odd; for when I was speaking of you ten minutes ago, he seemed to know as little about you as I do about the pugfaced lady."

Barbara smiled and shrugged her pretty

"Out of sight, out of mind! Monsieur ha forgotten me? "Oh, the barbarian! As if any one in their proper senses could ever see you and forget you! Ever since we parted," said Tom, laying his hand with pathos on the left side of his green jacket, "you have been my star by day and my dream by night—the sun of my existence, and the cherished idol of my young affections. Don't be laughing; it's truth I'm

"Bah! don't be talking nonsense! Do you remember the night you nearly broke your neck, and I saved you and your two cousins

from the Demon's Tower?" "That was six years ago—a long stretch to look back; but as if I could forget anything

you ever had a hand in, Barbara! "I'll box your ears, sir, if you keep on making an idiot of yourself! You remember I was up the next day to the castle, and enjoyed the leasure of the first chat I ever had with you; and we had a terrific quarrel, that raged for

at least three days?' "I remember. I told you that when I grew up and married Vic, you should be my second wife, and that whichever I found suited me best should be first sultana. Well, now, Bar bara, to make amends, suppose you become

"Stuff! Tell me where you dropped from so unexpectedly to-day?" From Cliffewood the last place. I came

down with Leicester in last evening's train.' "Are you going to remain?"
"No, indeed. I'm off again to-night."

"No, indeed. I'm oil again to-night."
"A flying visit, truly. Did you come for a coal, Mr. Tom, and want to get back to London with it before it goes out?"
"Not exactly. I came to poke up that superannuated old dame, Mrs. Wilder, with the intelligence that my lady and suite are to arrive to the metal." ive this day month at the castle.'

"Is it possible? Are all coming?"
"All. My lady, the colonel, Miss Shirley, " All. and Miss Margaret Shirley, not to mention a whole drove of visitors, who are expected down later in the summer." "And Miss Vic-is she well, and as pretty

"Pretty! I believe you! 'She's all my fancy painted her; she's divine,' and her heart it is no other's, and I'm bound it shall be mine!

"I read it in the papers, with a full account of her diamonds, and moire antique, and honion lace, and the sensation she created, and everything else. I suppose she has been hav-ing a very gay winter?" said Barbara, with a

little envious sigh.
"Stunning! It's her first season out, and she has made a small regiment of conquests already. You ought to see her, Barbara, in her diamonds and lace, looking down on her multitude of adorers like a princess, and eclips-ing all the reigning belles of London. One of her lovers—a poor devil of a poet, who was nalf-mad about her—christened her the 'Rose of Sussex:' and, upon my word, she is far more widely known by that title than as Miss

Shirley."
"Oh!" said Barbara, drawing in her breath

hard, "if I only were she!"

"If you were," said Tom, echoing the sigh,
"I would wish you to possess a little more With all her beauty, and her smiles and her coquetry, she is as finished a coquette as ever broke a heart. The girl is made of ice. You might kneel down and sigh out your soul at her feet, and she would laugh at you for your pains!

"She must have changed greatly then since she left here six years ago."
"Changed! There never was such change improvement, perhaps, some people would call it; but I can't see it. She used to be Vic Shirley then, but now she is Miss or Mademois elle Genevieve; and with all that satin and crinoline floating around her, a fellow can only ook on and admire from a respectful distance

Have you never seen her since? "Never! But," said Barbara, with a sudden crimsoning, that might have been pride or any other feeling, deepening the rose-hue on her cheek, "she wrote me one letter!"
"How generous! And you saved her life,

What was it about?' "It was a year ago," said Barbara, in a low tone; "a few months before she left school, and the colonel brought it from Paris-yo may have heard she was there for a few days last May. The emperor and empress had visited her convent-school, and she had been chosen to speak an address, and present a bouquet to each, and the emperor was struck by her— by her beauty, perhaps," with a little tremor of the clear voice; "and when it was all over, he came up to her and inquired her name, and chatted with her for some time, to the great envy of all the rest of the school.

"Oh, I've heard of all that!" said Tom, with an impatient shrug. "Lady Agnes has taken care to bore her dear five hundred friends with

it at least a thousand times!"
"Yes; but that is not all. Next day there came to the convent a little casket of purple velvet and ivory for Mademoiselle Shirley, bearing the imperial arms, and within there superb chain of gold and seed pearls with two lovely pearl hearts set in gold, and rubies united by a scroll bearing the letter 'N attached. It was the gift of the emperor; and

"It really is. What do you know about Miss Victoria gave me the whole account in her letter, and the colonel had a duplicate made in Paris, and gave it to me—only," said Barbara, laughing, with tears in her eyes, "with his cipher instead of the imperial one. "That was prime! And why don't you wear

his pretty present?"
"I always do, here," tapping lightly on her
white corsage. "I shall never part with it till die! And are you going to marry your cousin. Tom?"

"I don't know," said Tom, with a groan. "I wish to Heaven I could; but it doesn't de-pend on me, unfortunately. She is encircled from week's end to week's end with a crowd of perfumed Adonises, who always flutter around heiresses like moths round a lighted candle; and girls are such inconceivable fools, that they are always sure to prefer one of those nicely winged moths to a straightforward, honest, sensible, practical man. Miserable little pop-injays! I could take the best of them by the waistband and lay them low in the kennel, any

day, if I liked!"
"You great big monster! Then the great bear has actually lost his heart!"
"Great bear! You are all alike; and her pet name for me is Ursa Major, too!'

"But you are really in love, Tom?"
"I don't know that, either!" groaned Tom.
"Sometimes I love her—sometimes I hate her! and then, she is provoking enough to make a meeting-house swear! Oh, there's old Sweet, the lawyer, as yellow and smiling as ever, dallying along with Leicester, and I suppose I must give you up to him for one set, at least! By the way, how is the governor and the old lady?"

"If you mean my father and grandmother,

they are as well as usual."
"Well, that's jolly—beg your pardon! Ursa Major has bruinish ways of talking, and they never could knock any manners into me at Cambridge. Oh, I see something nice over there, and I'm going to ask her for the next

dance. Off went Tom, like a rocket, and up came suave and graceful Mr. Leicester Cliffe, with the smiling agent of Lady Agnes Shirley. "I believe I have the honor of the next,

lady fair," said the young gentleman. "You and Tom appeared to prefer talking to dancng, if one might judge from appearances. Barbara laughed. "Tom and I are old friends, Mr. Cliffe; and

when old friends meet they have a thousand things to say to each other." "Mr. Cliffe and you used to call me Leicester when I was here before.

"Oh, but you were a boy then!" said Barbara, with another gay laugh and vivid blush. Well, just think I'm a boy again, won't you? Barbara and Leicester are much pleasanter and shorter than Miss Black and Mr.

Barbara did not speak,
"If I were a lady," was her thought,
'would he talk to me like this?"

And all the fierce, indomitable pride, asleep but not dead, within her rose up, and sent a crimson to her cheek and a fire to her eye, and a sudden uplifting of the haughty little

"Six years is a long time, Mr. Cliffe!" she said, coldly; "and half an hour ago you had forgotten me!"

Miss Barbara, I have sinned in doing so, and have been repenting of it ever since. accuse myself," he said, penitently, "of forgetting the little wild-eyed gipsy, who used to sit on my knee and sing for me 'Lang-syne,' but when I cease to forget the May Queen of to-day, I shall have ceased to forget all things There was a low, mocking laugh behind them,

and Barbara turned round.

She had not laugh-

ed at his speech as she had done at similar speeches from Tom Shirley, and her dark face was glowing like the heart of a June rose when her eye fell on the laugher. But it was only Mr. Sweet, talking to a vivacious little damsel, and not paying any attention to them at The heir of Cliffewood and the fisherman's other took their station at the head of the

quadrille, and hundreds of eyes turned curibusly upon them. The gulf between herself and Tom Shirley was not so very wide, for Tom was nearly as poor as she; but the heir of Cliffewood—that was another thing! "What a handsome couple!" more than one

had said, in a stage-whisper. And a handsome couple they were. The young artist, with his dreamy brow, his splendid eyes, his fair brown hair, his proud characteristic face, and princely bearing; the girl crowned with roses, and crowned with her peauty and pride, as a far more regal diadem; her dress of gauzy white a duchess or a peasant might have worn with equal propriety, looking a lady to her finger-tips. The whisper reached them as they moved away at the conclusion of the dance, she leaning lightly on his arm;

and he turned to her with a smile. "Did you hear that? They call you and I a couple, Barbara." "Village gossips will make remarks!" said the young lady, with infinite composure; "and over in that field there are a horse and an ox

coupled. Noble and inferior animals should find their own level." You are pleased to be sarcastic"

Where have you been all these "Not at all. years, Mr. Cliffe?" "Over the world. I made the grand tour when I left Oxford, four years ago; then I visited the East; and, last of all, I went to America. This day six weeks, I was in New

"America! Ah! I should like to go there! It has been my dream all my life."

She did not speak. Her eyes were downcast, and her cheeks crimson. "Will your majesty not tell your most faithful subject?" he said, laughing in a careless way, that reminded her of Colonel Shirley; and, indeed, his every look and tone and smile reminded her of the absent Indian officer, and made her think far more tenderly of Mr. Leicester Cliffe than she could otherwise have done; for Barbara had the strongest and strangest affection for the handsome colonel in

the world. Why would you like to go to America?"he reiterated, looking at her curiously.

She raised her eyes, flashing with a strange

fire, and drew her hand hastily from his arm.
"Because all are equals there. Excuse me, Mr. Cliffe; I am engaged to Mr. Sweet for this

cotillion.

He looked after her with a strange smile, as she moved away, treading the ground as if she were indeed a queen. "You will sing another tune some day, my haughty little beauty," said he to himself, "or

my power will fail for once."

The day passed delightfully. There was the dinner on the grass, and more dancing, and long promenades; and the May Queen's merable admirers uttered curses not loud but deep, to find Mr. Leicester Cliffe devoted himself to her all day, as if she had been the great-

To contest any prize against such a rival was not to be thought of; and, when supper was over, and the stars were out, and the young May moon rose up, the heir of Cliffewood walked home with the cottage-beauty on his arm. Tom Shirley had taken the evening train for London, and there was none to tell tales out of school.

The sea lay asleep in the moonlight, and the fishing-boats danced over the silvery ripples under the hush of the solemn stars. Oh, what a night!" exclaimed Barbara.

"What a moon that is! and what a multitude of stars! It seems to me," with a light laugh, they never were so many nor so beautiful be

"They're all beautiful," said Leicester speaking of them and looking at her. "But I have seen a star brighter than any there, to-day! Fairest Barbara. Good-night!"

Those same slandered stars watched Mr. Leicester Cliffe slowly riding homeward in their placid light, and watched him fall asleep with his head on his arm, and the same queer halfsmile on his lips, to dream of Barbara.

> CHAPTER XIV. THE WARNING.

SIR ROLAND CLIFFE sat in his dining-room at Cliffewood—a pleasant room, with a velvet carpet of crimson and white on the floor; crimson-satin curtains draping the French win dows that opened on a sunny sweep of lawn; pictures on the satin-paneled walls-pretty pic tures in gilded frames, of fruit and the chase, with green glimpses of Indian jungles, American prairies and Canadian forests—the latter the work of Sir Roland's heir. Sir Roland himself sat in a great arm-chair of crimson velvet, with gilded back and arms-a corpulent gentleman of fifty, much addicted to that gentlemanly disease, the gcut—before an an-tique mahogany table, draped with the snowiest of damask, strewn with Laskets of silver filagree, heaped with oranges, grapes and nuts, and flanked with sundry cut-glass decanters of ruby port and golden sherry. An open letter lay on the table, in a dainty Italian hand, that began, "My dear brother;" and while the May sunshine and breezes floated blandly through the crimson curtains, Sir Roland sipped his pale sherry, munched his walnuts and grapes, and ruminated deeply. He had sat quite alone over his dessert, making his meditations, when right in the middle of an unusually profound one came the sound of a light, quick step on the terrace without, the sweet notes of a clear voice singing, "The Lass o' Gowrie," and the next minute the door was thrown open, and Mr. Leicester Cliffe walked in, with his huge Canadian wolf-dog by his side. The young gentleman wore a shooting costume, and had a gun in his hand; and the seaside sun and wind seemed to agree with him mightily, for there was a glow on his pale cheek and a dancing

light in his luminous eyes.
"Late, as usual!" was his salutation, as he stood his gun in a corner, and flung his wide-awake on a sofa. "I intended to be the soul of punctuality to-day; but the time goes here one doesn't know how, and I only found out it was getting late by feeling half-famished.

Hope I haven't kept you waiting?"
"I have not waited," said Sir Roland.
"Ring the bell, and they'll bring your dinner. Been gunning, I see? I hope with more success than usual."

"I am sorry to say not. Loup and I have spent our day and bagged nothing."
"Very shy game yours must be, I think."
"It is!" said Leicester, with emphasis.
"Well, you'll have the chance to aim at game

of another sort, soon-high game, too, my boy Here is a letter from Lady Agnes.' "Indeed!"

"And it contains a pressing invitation for you to go up to London and be present at a ball her ladyship gives in a few days."

"You will go! Listen:

"'Tell Leicester to be sure to come, Roland. I would not have him absent for the world. It is about the last ball of the season, and he will meet scores of old friends, who will be enxious to see scores of old friends, who will be enxious to see him after all those years of heathenish wandering. And you know there is another, and still stronger reason, my dear brother, for if the proposed alliance between Victoria and him ever becomes an established fact, I am extremely desirous to have it settled, and the engagement publicly made known before we leave London."

Sir Roland laid down the letter at this pass age, and looked complacently across the table at his stepson; and that young gentleman, who had been paying profound attention to his din-ner, and very little to her lady's letter, now raised an eye haughty and indignant.

"The proposed alliance! What does Lady Agnes mean by that?"

Precisely what she says, my dear boy. Pass those oranges, if you please.

"That I'm to marry her granddaughter, Miss Victoria Shirley?"

"Exactly! Oh, you needn't fire up like that. The matter is the simplest thing in the world. Lady Agnes and I have intended you for one anothe ever since little Vic first came from France." 'Much obliged to you both; at the same

time, I beg to decline the honor.

"You will do nothing of the kind! It is the most reasonable and well-assorted match in the You are both young, both good-looking, both of the same family, yet unrelated, and the two estates will join admirably, and make you one of the richest landed gentlemen in England."

"Unanswerable arguments, all. Still permit me to decline.

"And why, pray?" inquired Sir Roland, slightly raising his voice.
"My dear sir," said the young gentleman, filling with precision his glass with sherry, "I am infinitely obliged to her ladyship and your self for selecting a wife for me in this most royal and courtly fashion; but still, strange as it may appear, I have always had the vague notion that I should like to select the lady myself. It seems a little unreasonable, I allow, but then it's a whim I have.'

"Stuff and nonsense! What would the boy have? If you want riches, she is the richest heiress in the kingdom; and if you want beau-ty you may search the three kingdoms and not see anything like her."

"I don't know about that. I have never

You have seen her picture, then. It is all

the same in Greek.' "I have looked at a picture over there in the old hall, of a very pink-and-white damsel, with round blue eyes and colorless hair, and

as insipid, I am ready to make my affidavit, as a mug of milk and water. I don't fancy the small-beer style of young ladies; and as for her beauty-cream-candy and strawberrie are very nice in their way, but nobody can live on them forever."

'Speak plain English, sir, and never mind cream-candy. Do you mean to say you refuse the hand of Miss Shirley?"

Miss Shirley know that she is to remain, like a stationer's parcel, to be left till I call for her? Or, if that is not plain enough English, is she

a party to this affair?"
"She knows nothing about it; but it will be made known to her as soon as you arrive in London.

"And do you suppose, sir, that she, a beau ty, an heiress, a belle, moving in the first cir-cles, with all the best men of the day at her will consent to be made a puppet of, and jump into my arms the moment I open them? The day has passed for such things, sir, and English girls are too spunky to be traded like Eastern slaves."

"She is no English girl. She is French by birth and education; French to the core of her heart; and, being French, she is too well used to this style of thing to dream for a moment of opposing the will of her guardians. The girl is what you are not—as obedient as if rained in a military school. A girl with such French notions as she has would almost marry a live kangaroo, if her friends desired it.

"And that in itself is another objection. Miss Shirley, as you say, is French. So was her mother. Would you have a Cliffe marry

the daughter of a French actress?"
"I'll break your head with this decanter if you insinuate such a thing again!" said Sir Roland, furiously; for there was still a tender spot in his heart sacred to the memory of Vivia. "Miss Shirley is altogether too good for such a worthless scapegrace as yourself.
And I vow, sir, I have half a mind to disinherit you and make Tom Shirley my heir. He would marry her the moment he was asked, without the least objection."

Leicester laughed at the threat. 'I do not doubt it in the least, sir. But you and Lady Agnes are the most artiless conspira-tors ever I heard of. Now, when you wanted us to unite our fortunes, your plan was to have brought us together in some romantic and unusual way, and warned us, under the most frightful penalties, not to dream of ever being anything but acquaintances. The consequence would have been a severe attack of the grand passion, and an elopement in a fortnight compliment you, sir, by saying that you have no more art than if you were five instead of

fifty years old."
"We don't want to be artful. The matter is to be arranged in the most plain and straightforward manner—nothing deceitful or under-hand about it. If you choose to marry Miss Shirley, and gratify the dearest wish of my heart, I shall be grateful and happy all my life; if you prefer declining well and good. Vic will get a better man, and I shall know heart for treat my dutiful storeen." how to treat my dutiful stepson.

"Is that meant for a threat, Sir Roland?" "You may construe it in any way you choose, Mr. Leicester Cliffe, but I certainly have counted without hesitation on your consent in this matter for the last six years.

"But, my dear sir, don't talk as if the affair all rested with me. Miss Shirley may be the first to decline.

"I tell you she will do nothing of the sort. Miss Shirley will obey her natural guardians, and marry you any moment you ask her."

"A most dignified position for the young lady," said Leicester, with a slight shrug and

smile, as he proceeded with solicitude to light his cigar. "Of course, her father knows all about this."

"Her father knows nothing of it as yet. He is one of those men who set their faces against anything like coercion and who would not have his daughter's wishes forced in the slightest de-

"I admire his good sense. And suppose I consent to this step, when shall I start for London?"

"To-morrow morning, in the first train. There is no time to be lost, if you wish to arrive for the ball."

"And the first thing I have to do upon get ting there, I suppose, is, to step up to the young lady, hat in hand, and say: 'Miss Shirley, your grandmother and my father have agreed that we should marry. I don't care do you like the style of that, sir?"

"You may propose anyway you please, so that you do it. She is a sensible girl, and will

understand it. You will go then?"
"Here, Loup!" said the young man, holding out a bunch of grapes to his dog, by way of answer; "get down off that velvet ottoman directly. What do you suppose our worthy housekeeper will say, when she finds the tracks

of your dirty paws on its wniteness?"

"I knew all along you would go," said Sir Roland, filling his glass. "Here's her health in old port, and success to you both! The only astonishing thing is, how you could have remained here so long. When you got here first, two weeks ago, you told me before you had been five minutes in the house that you would die of ennui to stay here a week; but two of them have passed now, and here you are, a permanent fixture, and not a word of ennui. be sure there are amusements, you can go out shooting every morning, and return every evening empty-handed; you can go out sailing, there are plenty of boats in Lower Cliffe, and there are plenty agreeable fishermen, too, with handsome daughters.

It might have been the reflection of the curtains—the young gentleman was standing by the window smoking, and contemplating the scenery; but his face turned crimson.

ere is one particularly," went on Sir Ro-ryly. "Black is the man, I think—very land, dryly. "Black is the man, I think—very fine fellow, I have no doubt, with a tall, dark haired daughter. Barbara is a nice little girl, always was, and will teach you to row and catch lobsters to perfection, very likely; but still Mr. Leicester Cliffe has other duties to fulfill in life besides those two. Take care, my dear boy, and when you reach London, don't talk too much of the fisherman's girl to the heiress of Castle Cliffe."

The young man had been standing with his foot on the window-sill during this harangue; now he stepped out on the lawn.

"I will go to London to-morrow, sir," he said, quietly; and was hid from view by the screening curtains. (To be continued—commenced in No. 269.)

The Terrible Truth: THE THORNHURST MYSTERY,

BY MRS. JENNIE DAVIS BURTON,

AUTHOR OF "STRANGELY WED," "THE FALSE WIDOW," "ADRIA, THE ADOPTED," "CO-RAL AND RUBY," ETC., ETC., ETC.

> CHAPTER XXVII. THE TURNING OF THE SCALE.

NORA came down to breakfast next mo ning, pallid and with purple shades under her eyes, traces of a sleepless, restless night.
"I am half-convinced that Dare is right,"

glanced at her. "Solitude and fifteen hours' fasting have a great effect in subduing a will-ful spirit. She evidently sees that we mean all we say, and wisely concludes not to make

The merchant sunk into a more complacent frame of mind after that. The very quietude which lulled his apprehension was indicative of anything but the submissive spirit to which he ascribed it. It was a very silent meal, a very dull morning which followed it. retired to her own room again, and Mr. Grahame yawned and dozed through a long three hours. Without the chill and clouds of the last three days had resolved into a slow drizzle, and the first falling leaves from the elms were swept into wet shivering drifts here and there on the close turf of the lawn. It was not an inviting prospect as he stood in the door looking out, but the empty rooms in the

great house were no more so.

"No fear of chance callers on a day like this," he reflected, as he tossed the stub of the eigar he had been smoking to the damp path The servants have their orders in case any one should stray this way. By Jove! little wonder that Nora is ready to give in. I think I'll walk across and see what Dare is doing

His overcoat was on the rack, an umbrella near at hand, and Mr. Grahame well used to all weathers. Three minutes afterward he was taking the path across the fields the only moving creature to be seen in the whole drip ping, sodden landscape. Nora caught a glimpse of him from her window, and pressed her face against the glass watching him disappear with in the cedar-grove, thinking intently for a mo-ment. There were two of them; they were strong and she was weak; Dare she knew would hesitate at nothing to carry his point, and while her guardian would surely not dare resort to the extremity they had declared the previous night, she would be subjected to like indigniies and persecutions while they remained She was alone there, but would she be any less alone anywhere else, back in the city, for instance, or any the less in their power? Mrs. Grahame was most probably up among the lakes of Central New York now, and to what one of her fashionable, propriety-serving acquaintances could she appeal from the control of her guardian? Surely the thought which had come like a wild impulse into her head of flying from them back to the city was not one feasibly carried out.

She dismissed it and was turning away when a second moving object caught her eye. time it was a carriage, one of the shabby vehicles belonging to the village, dasning through the gales and up the drive to the front of the building. A summons echoed through the quiet nouse, a moment later. There was a litthe stairs with but a faint hope that this arrival might change her own situation there for the better. It was more apt to prove an humble visitor for the housekeeper than one of ner

"Can't 'elp hit," the footman was saying, as he blocked the entrance with his form. horder was to let nobody hin, and hI'm not go ing to break 'em. Wouldn't do hit for Queen Victory 'erself, with my hinstructions." Something of the cockney had been brought over with this importation from Old England, and full complement of John Ball obstinacy was planted under that stolid exterior.

'My fare's come all the way from New York to see the young lady that's stayin' here," said a rough, exposulating voice without. "Come now; lend a hand here and help get the lacy in." 'There hain't no young lady 'ere," declared

the man at the door, with a sang froid which astonished his listener. "Oh, come now, that won't go down! Haven't I seen her myself a couple of times on the

road?" "Can't 'elp hit. My horders was to say has there's no young lady 'ere to hanyone."
"Stand aside, Hamlin" said Nora's authoritative voice at his back. "What do you mean

by denying admittance to any guest? "Hit's my horders, Miss, hon pain hof being

At least your orders cannot prevent me from going out. Stand aside at once." Hamlin obeyed, unwillingly, and Nora ran down the steps to the waiting carriage. Within sat Mrs. Sholto Norton Hayes, the picture of virtueus indignation, not inclined to unbend after this slight put upon her.

"My dear Mrs. Hayes, this is some ridicu-lous mistake," said Nora, for once heartily rejoiced at sight of her rival of old. "Don't

mind it, please, and do get out at once,"
"Thanks; I have altered my purpose," answered the lady, frigidly. "I shall return to the village. Are you aware that it rains, Miss Carteret? It is exceedingly imprudent for a young lady in your delicate health to be

out in it." "But I am not in delicate health, Mrs. Hayes. I thought you knew how preposter-ously healthy I always am. Do, for my sake,

overlook the servant's stupid blunder."
"Who ordered him to keep me out?" asked
Mrs. Hayes, aggrievedly. "Really, Nora, I
do not understand your course at all. Why
did you leave word for Sir Rupert Archer that you were off on a late trip to the lakes on account of impaired health?

"I never left such word." "I heard Lisa Grahame herself tell him so. And Vane-dear me, Nora! after the way you have stood for Vane I should not suppose you would be so callous to his fate now.

Nora's heart gave a great bound, for a moment her breath and her words refused to What of Vane?" she asked, when she

could speak, breathlessly. "Have you heard of him? 'All the country is hearing of him," vouch-

safed Mrs. Hayes, still stiffly. "Do you never read the papers that you don't know he is un-He was taken three days ago, immediately after landing, and brought on to Pittsburg the day following. There's just one chance for him, people say, and that is to prove an alibi. I'm sure I hope he may." Nora's heart was standing still now. The earth and heaven seemed to meet and mingle posely kept in ignorance of this, and Vane's return had fixed the league between her guard-

fuse to come in when I tell you so and that I need you here."

That white, wistful face was not to be sisted. Mrs. Hayes, with her injured dignity in a measure appeased, consented to alight at the result of the hearing to-day, and I thought you would rather have it from friendly lips." That white, wistful face was not to be rehad retired minutes before in disgust, and the way was free.

"I don't know what you mean by needing "Really, Sir Roland, you have the most point-blank way of putting questions. Does thought Mr. Grahame from his place, as he was also what you mean by necessary and the way of mean by necessary and the way of putting questions. The was also what you mean by necessary as a coat-pocket, if you gentlemen are interested you really need any one why not send a mestary what you mean by necessary as a coat-pocket, if you gentlemen are interested you really need any one why not send a mestary what you mean by necessary as a coat-pocket, if you gentlemen are interested you really need any one why not send a mestary what you mean by necessary as a coat-pocket, if you gentlemen are interested you really need any one why not send a mestary what you mean by necessary as a coat-pocket, if you gentlemen are interested you really need any one why not send a mestary what you mean by necessary as a coat-pocket, if you gentlemen are interested you really need any one why not send a mestary what you mean by necessary as a coat-pocket, if you gentlemen are interested you really need any one why not send a mestary what you mean by necessary as a coat-pocket, if you gentlemen are interested you really need any one why not send a mestary which was a coat-pocket, if you gentlemen are interested you mean the coat-pocket which was a coat-pocket when you mean the coat-pocket which was a coat-pocket when you mean the coat-pocket which was a coat-pocket when you mean the coat-pocket which was a coat-pocket when you mean the coat-pocket which was a coat-pocket when you mean the coat-pocket when you mean you when you was a coat-pocket when you mean you was a coat-pocket when you mean you was a coat-pocket when you was a coat-p

sage to Sholto? He came on with me to be thy. He is innocent, and he will be proved present at the hearing which occurs to-day. This driver has proved himself a most accommodating person, and we can safely trust him to send a dispatch."

For once in her life at least Mrs. Hayes had made a sensible suggestion, and one which Nora put into immediate execution. She wrote the message hurriedly in the other's name, and herself gave it in charge to the good-natured waiting driver, who declined the gratuity she would have pressed upon him.

"Bless you, no, Miss, not for a trifle like that. I've had my fare, and it's a pleasure to do for them that were ever anything to Colonel Vivian. The old colonel were a good friend

"And now," said Mrs. Hayes, as the two were seated together, a little later, in the one open parlor, "what is the mystery of your being here, Nora? I discovered the fact by the merest accident. I thought with all the rest that you were up among the lakes, but a chance letter from Ida Vandivere mentioned your odd taste in coming alone to Thornhurst. If you had to come why wasn't Lisa Grahame along

instead of going back to town?" "It was Mrs. Grahame who was to take the trip to the lakes. I came here at my guardian's suggestion. There, Mrs. Hayes, I was was inclined to make you only half a confidante, but I repent already and tell you the whole

She told it briefly, a new anxiety of more weight than any previous uneasiness she had entertained for herself upon her. Mrs. Hayes, who had never quite forgiven Owen Dare, was willing enough to remain now and by her pre-

sence baffle his plans. "Such unparalleled effrontery!" she ejaculated. "With Sir Rupert Archer and a half-score of other friends only twenty miles away, to think they should have you hidden here and absolutely make the attempt to force you into a marriage against your own will—it is out of all precedent! It is only natural that you do not wish the matter made public talk, and I shall respect your request by not mentioning it even to Sholto. How fortunate we sent for him, since he is the other trustee, and will see that you have your own way regarding Thornhurst.

It proved a long hour of mutual explanations between the two. Nora heard for the first of her own unexpected fortune, of the runors of Vane's success in the diamond fields of popular sympathy turned suddenly in his

"Half the people are confident that he will turn out innocent at last," concluded the lady. "Some say that he can prove an alibi at the very start, and so escape a trial. I am sure I hope so. Think what a terrible disgrace it would be to have a crime like that attach to tne old Vivian name!"

Two hours after he had sauntered out alone, Mr. Grahame returned arm-in-arm with Dare The two stopped, transfixed, upon the threshold—transfixed at sight of Mrs. Sholto Norton Hayes reclining in a great purple velvet chair before the fire, greeting them with her most languid, softest words and smiles.

Nora rose up, a bright flush in her cheeks, a little triumphant thrill in her voice, which came there in this supreme moment of her own victory over the machinations against her as she noted the blank, baffled expression sweep

over Dare's face.

"Mrs. Hayes has kindly brought me the news which you gentlemen withheld,"she said.
"In return, I had the pleasure of confiding to her all of yesterday's incidents, and at my request she has consented to remain at Thorn-nurst for an indefinite time. Mr. Hayes, in Pittsburg now, may be expected by the ing train. I think I may depend upon his assistance in carrying out my intention when I come of age, without fear of the private lunatic asylum of which Mr. Dare made mention

last night." Dare, with a look of baffled malignity, impotent of harm as was his own dark will now, turned on his heel and strode out of the house

without a word. "Whether you absolutely meant all you discharged. Begging your pardon, Miss, no-body can't come hin hall the same." said, or merely endeavored to frighten me into compliance with your will," Nora constormy days of March. tinued, addressing her guardian, "I do not ask. You never would have succeeded in either case. It rests with you whether the affair shall ever come to public knowledge. am willing to let matters rest as they were for the few weeks I shall still remain under your guardianship, Mr. Grahame, provided you do not attempt again to influence my inclina-

Mr. Grahame drew a breath of absolute re-

lief. "It shall be as you say, Nora. Of myself I never would have attempted to influence you. I never really favored the scheme, but I was bound to support Dare in all reasonable measures. Of course I would not have sanctioned his going to the extremes proposed.

Nora was willing to accept the assurance and peace was established again in Thornhurst. Sholto Norton Hayes, in company with two other gentlemen, arrived by the 6:30 express. The Thornhurst carriage met them, and they were whirled up through the dripping avenue and set down before the lighted front in the murky dusk of the chill autumn evening. Al-Thornhurst mansion had thrown off the cloud of dreariness which had encompassed it. The long parlors were unclosed, the furniture divested of the canvas coverings, cheery fires upon the hearths, and lights penetrating all the corners.

Nora had been hopeful, feverishly expectant, during the afternoon. With the feet of the comers on the very threshold, a shivering dread came over her, at once an intense desire to know the result urging her forward, a terrible fear of the worst holding her back Mrs. Hayes was in her own chamber, dressing for dinner. The fate of the world might have hung on a thread, but Mrs. Sholto Hayes would not have been shaken from her observances of long habit-Gabriel might have sounded his trump almost any day after six with the certainty of finding her ready for eternity in full toilet. On this occasion the excitement attending her arrival and the absence of her maid had shaken her weak nerves and prolonged the task of dressing by a good for one dizzy confused moment. A rush of hour. Nora stood alone in the center of the comprehension also came. She had been pur-rooms, listening to her guardian's greeting of the guests and the sounds of their steps pass ing up the stairway to the apartments designian and Owen Dare.

"I never heard of it," she said, in low, intense tones. "Mrs. Hayes, you will not reto be kept in suspense, however. The door to be kept in suspense, however. The door to be kept in suspense, however. swung back, and Sir Rupert Archer, still in traveling-wraps, had her hand in his in an-

His grave face crushed her last hope. "Vane has not been cleared!"

"Mrs. Hayes said that everything depended upon his proving an alibi. Can he do it?" "He believes it. I will tell you the truth, Miss Carteret. Everything depends upon find-ing Miss Montrose. She is the one living being by whom he can be cleared, and no knows her whereabouts. She must be found. The trial comes off in January, and the inter-

vening time shall be devoted to the search." "Will it be so difficult? They went to the South, I remember-Miss Montrose and her father.

"They left there two months afterward. passed through the vicinity and made inquiry, but could gain no information of them further. I can do Vane no good here, and I shall leave for the South again in a couple of days. Be sure that no effort shall be spared—they must be found."

Nora was by far more sanguine of the result

than was the barenet. She could not know

how thorough his inquiry had been, how com-

plete the mystery of their sudden disappearance. Womanlike, her reasoning went little further than that Vane would be cleared because he was innocent. His other staunch friend, Prescott, was presented by her guardian when the dinner-bell called the party below, and during the evening found occasion to explain to her the full particulars of the trust he held.

Morning saw the gentlemen disperse again. A telegram brought Mrs. Grahame down to Thornhurst two days later. Mrs. Hayes remained, and the household fell into the dull routine under which anxiety and sympathy

were powerful elements. It was wonderful how the rumor of Vane's success abroad changed popular opinion. A stream of visitors among his old acquaintances flowed in upon him in his prison-room; a pile of dainty, sympathetic notes were of daily occurrence. The ladies from Thornhurst were currence. The ladies from Thornhurst were among the first, and Nora, saying little while there, carried back the image of her hero, changed from the dark, handsome boy, reckless and thoughtless, to the man matured, no less handsome, and a reformed character who, in even his present painful position, was taking the whole circle which had been loud in denouncing him by storm.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

IN THE COURT-ROOM.
WEEKS went by. October blazed through at Thornhurst. The yellow and crimson leaves turned brown, and then the trees held up their bare branches to a gray November sky, and the first snow fell upon them and wrapped the lawn and the hillside in a pure white sheet. At last December was wearing fast away. The coming trial was in everybody's mouth now. It was well known that the best counsel had been secured. The preliminary hearing had turned upon the verdict of the coroner's jury three years before, and the witnesses summoned were almost identical with those examined then.

Meantime Sir Rupert Archer had been following blind clues in his own personal re-search. First he had inserted advertisements in the leading papers of America and London. He had carefully gone over the ground he had traversed once before in his own personal in-terest, but now a life was at stake, he would not neglect even the most improbable chances, thus proving a friendship stronger than love. The old ruin in Georgia had been leveled to the ground. A few among the elder planters remembered the morose man who had once lived in their midst, but no one knew from whence he had come or where he had gone. One or two cognizant of his return there few brief weeks, three years previous, had imbibed an idea that he had gone to some one of the gold-producing localities of the world, one suggesting California, another Australia. Still another imagined that, instead of seeking a fortune, Mr. Montrose had had a fortune left Only one thing was evident beyond him. doubt: that they had quitted the vicinity unexpectedly to even themselves. The cottage had been taken until June, and father and

In addition to the advertisements already afloat, Sir Rupert immediately opened communications with suitable parties in the various points where Mr. Montrose might, with any reasonable probability, have resorted. The cable to Australia was not complete, but the baronet forwarded letters to the colony, although there was no chance of a reply before the trial, and the desperate earnestness with which he prosecuted the search in all di-rections was better proof than any words of how hopeless he felt his friend's case should Venetia Montrose not be found. Vane's coun-

sel also had prosecuted inquiry to no avail. How the days sped! how the brief interval grew briefer! how hope waned and anxiety grew as the short winter days merged one into another, and the holidays were at hand! There were no rejoicings at Thornhurst now. One anxious heart was growing faint with hope deferred. Nora's twenty-first birthday was past, and the papers which restored every penny of Colonel Vivian's fortune to his son lay in the lawyer's hands.

The twenty-fourth day of December broke -a bright, cloudless winter day, with a crisp snow under foot, and a keen, bracing air which sent new life into languid pulses. Grahame, who for past weeks had been devoting himself strictly to his business, had come down to Thornhurst on the previous day. The two months' extension obtained through Dare had brought him all he hoped; his difficulties were lifted, his liabilities met, and he was prepared to endure the holidays in the quiet country-house in the complacent martyrdom with which he tolerated relaxation from business cares. Dare had kept himself scrupulous ly out of the way since his own plans had come to naught. There had been one or two private interviews between him and the counsel for the prosecution, who prided himself upon working up the neatest case of the whole year, and it was whispered that certain important points in his possession had been ferreted out by the acute lawyer. He had not once been near Vane in his prison.

Sholto Norton Hayes made one of the party at Thornhurst, and on the morning of twenty-fourth Sir Rupert Archer joined them, just returned from a fruitless trip to the Far West, where he had pursued a W. Montrose, who, like a will-o'-the-wisp, was always before him, and who, cornered at last, proved the wrong man. He put his own anxiety out of sight for the time, but be apparently cheerful as all might, this reunion was a weight upon all as a reminder of a far different Christmas-

time three years before. The baronet was in time to join the party at the breakfast-table.

"I have the morning papers along with me," he remarked, as they lingered over the "He is committed for trial. Don't let it meal. "Hamlin can find them in my over

Mr. Grahame, whose morning paper was essential to his comfort as his morning coffee, sent the man after them immediately.

"This is something out of my line," the "You ladies merchant said, laying one aside. will probably not despise it. The Dispatch or Commercial - which will you prefer, Haves?"

Nora took up the discarded sheet indifferently.

"A Court Journal," said the baronet, glancing across. "You are sure to find it extremely interesting, Miss Carteret. I am positive I received no English papers yesterday, and until then that overcoat has not been in use for the greater part of a year. That particular Court Journal must have arrived at a rather venerable age."

Old though it might be, something had caught Nora's careless eye. She read the lengthy paragraph through, her hand trembled, and her glance, eager and intense, went across to the baronet. Then her eyes fell and she trifled with the contents of her plate, but not a morsel after that passed her lips.

Half an hour after she went into the library where Sir Rupert had strayed alone, the paper in her hands, her voice quivering in her

We have been so often disappointed, I could not bear to say anything before the rest. Sir Rupert, is it possible that this can be our Miss Montrose? It seems incredible, but Mr. Walter Montrose was an Englishman, and who knows? Stranger things might have happened.'

He glanced at the article she pointed out. and uttered a slight ejaculation.

It was a description of the presentation at court of the Lady Venetia Montrose, daughter of the new Earl of Cleveland, the bright, particular star who would not fail to electrify

London society during the coming season.
"It is possible! I can almost hope we have really discovered them at last, now that I recall the very striking resemblance which exist-ed between the old Earl of Cleveland and Mr. Walter Montrose. I mentioned it to his daughter once, but she ignored the relationship. was half-inclined for the moment to suspect and it never occurred to me later, to identify him in the successor to the earldom. I have hopes, but for fear of still another disappointment, let us keep this, which may be no more than a coincidence, to ourselves. I will send a cable dispatch the moment I return to town, to be delivered through my London lawyer for the sake of certainty

The baronet returned to the city early of the same afternoon, accompanied by Nora and Sholto Hayes, whose mission was to call upon

the prisoner. Vane was neither indifferent nor insensible to his danger. His own great grief for his fa-ther had not left him incapable of comprehending how the dark appearances standing against him might be made to tell. He knew how vain the search after the one person who could clear him had proved; there was only one hope left, that some break might occur in the chain of circumstantial evidence so woven about him.

He was looking the worse for more than two months passed in prison, but his steady nerve and high courage had not failed him once. was the last time Nora would see him before the trial, still three weeks in advance. It was too painful to see him often in his captivity, and a self-reproach, which need have held no place in her mind, stirred her to the bitterest

All unwittingly, she had come between fa-Vane had been bitter against ther and son. her once; little wonder if he had hated her; he did her fuller justice now; he had protested against her intention as made known to him,

but without altering her purpose. Sholto Hayes, never very clever, invariably experienced an uncomfortably stifling sensa tion when he found himself within that narrow, bare prison-room, and lost whatever of tact he might ordinarily possess. He stood staring out of the little barred window while Nora concluded her interview with the prison-

She had never harassed him with signs of eakness in her occasional visits, with tears or lamentations, as the few other ladies who had called upon him invariably made it a habit to came in the hope of bringing him a little comfort, to show how firm was her own faith in him, not to depress.

"There is one thing more I wish you to know -what I came to tell you to-day: Thornhurst is really yours now, as it should have been from the first. No; please don't pain me by any remonstrance, or by thanks I do not deserve. "You have insisted on that, Nora! Prom-

ise me one thing, at least: that you will not refuse it, should I never have occasion to return. I should like to be sure Thornhurst was left in loving hands."

It was the first time he had referred, ever so remotely to the worst termination which might come of the trial. She shrunk with a sickenhands as though she would have waved the dread away.
"Don't, Vane! Oh, for pity's sake, never

think it may be so bad as that. 'If you will agree to this, then, to stay there until I may come to claim the place

Pray for the time to come soon, if you will, "You don't intend to let them hang you, I hope, Vivian," broke in Sholto Hayes, turning

from his post of outlook. "Not if I can help it," said Vane, with a "It takes something more than consmile. currence of events such as forms the evidence

to hang a man in this enlightened age. Sir Rupert's message went, and in due time an answer from his London lawyer was returned. It was almost a greater disappointment than any one previous, since it left them still in suspense. It said:

"The Earl of Cleveland and daughter out of the ountry. Message will be forwarded by the earl's

That was all—the beginning and the end of the hope which had swelled in two hearts almost to confidence—the end of it, when three more weeks rolled round, and the day of trial came.

The place was crowded on that fifteenth day of January, when the prisoner was led into the court-room. He was a trifle worn. Three months of confinement had paled the bronze which was the result of as many years' expo-On the whole, the assembly was disappointed that he was not looking worse. people were there, some through sympathy, by far the greater part through a morbid curio to personally witness the great sensation of the day. Vane, a little pale, but perfectly collected, glanced over the sea of faces greeting him, bowed to his friends, and took his place.

Mr. Blakewell, for the prosecution, opened the case. This trial was, he was thankful to say, something unusual in the annals of the Our young men were too wild and reckless as a class; too many of them were building up a record unworthy of their names such a record as two years of the prisoner's

life, which should be briefly reviewed there, of humanity, the scum of the earth, but in the young generation springing up about us, those of our own blood, whose hopes were as our hopes, whose lives as our lives. But, thank Heaven! it was seldom that the black brand of the parricide fell on our young men of prom-Justice was proving itself too lax in its dealings with deeply-dyed criminals. There was much dissatisfaction in the Eastern courts at that present time over delays, and reprieves, and pardons, where prompt execution would have been no more than retributive justice and a host of following crimes would have been prevented thereby. This state of things was all wrong; there must be a limit to it found; there must be a striking example made to shock that reckless portion of the world back to its senses again. What better opportunity for the double purpose than this? Then followed the promised review of the prisoner's life—his wild course while abroad, his further mad folly afer his return. Much had been known to the public then; more remained to be unfolded

The witnesses summoned were for the most part those who had testified at the inquest. Nora was not spared this cruel trial. She gave her testimony as she had given it before, colectedly, but with a horrible despair of knowing that her words were adding to the probability that would sign his death-warrant. Sir Rupert Archer, Mr. Frederick Janes, and many

thers, gave their evidence as before. Owen Dare called and repeated his previous deposition. He had strolled out he had folowed the female form fancying something suspicious in her manner, had recognized the two as they met beneath the elms and turned Had smoked a cigar in the shrubbery before returning to the veranda, meantime had seen a man drive up to the door, alight and gain admittance. Voices in the library checked him as he was about to enter. The words vere audible, and unintentionally he overheard fragment of conversation between Colonel Vivian and his visitor. Heard the latter anounce himself as a bank messenger and ask if a signature he appeared to display was genuine. Heard the colonel declare it a forgery. Anther signature apparently displayed by the visitor also pronounced a forgery. Heard the man declare the checks had been taken as payment for Vane Vivian's debts, and suggest that the colonel should acknowledge one which had been realized upon in which case the bank would take no measures to discover the criminal party, and the person presenting the check better afford to lose the amount than meddle with the law. Had stood chained by surprise during the brief space this has passed, but recovering himself had walked quietly

away and gone in by a different entrance.

Henry Young, bank messenger, sworn Verified the evidence of Mr. Dare as related to his interview with Colonel Vivian. The colonel had consented to admit one of the signa tures, the other false check which had not been realized upon was destroyed. The bank had never taken any steps to discover the forger. It was not probable the prisoner supposed his father aware of the forgery. Had had no acquaintance with the accused. Had seen him nce. The occasion was after midnight, in the first hour of New Year's Day, 1870. then come rushing in past Thornhurst station and sprung to a car-platform after the train

was in motion. Had never known the rash passenger was Vane Vivian until recognizing nim in the prisoner at the bar. Mr. Young was permitted to stand down. A question of time was instituted. The ounsel for the defense claimed that the dis ance from Thornhurst mausion could not have been traversed on foot in the twelve minutes difference between city and railway time. The prosecution demanded evidence that the train vas strictly on time that night. Even express trains in our country, and especially at that season, are not always infallible models of The judge overruled the point punctuality. There were many different degrees of swiftss. and desperation would naturally lend ed to a man's feet. A few moments of time

the finding of the pistol identified as his, the motives developed prompting the deed, and the flight so artfully planned, so successfully carried out.

could not stand against the evidence produced.

the ill-terms between father and son, the ac

knowledged reckless character of the latter

Mr. Prescott testified to the prisoner's character being most exemplary during two years he had known him; his (Prescott's) firm belief that the other had never learned of his father's decease until his arrest for the crime after ar riving in New York.

All the proof was dead against the accused. The evidence summed up overwhelmingly Popular opinion, fickle as it is enthusiastic turned again. In vain the counsel for the ac cused spoke eloquently of his reform, of his poble efforts to redeem himself during later years fed on the hope of gaining a noble father's forgiveness for follies of the past. The learned counsel was drawing to the close of his appeal, the stern faces of the listening jury never softened, the impatience of the audience was becoming apparent. A messenger, slipping with professional skill through the crowd,

elivered a note into the counsel's hand. The latter glanced at it, flashed a look over the crowded court, and went on with his speech. He referred to the grave mistakes arising through trusting too utterly to circumstantial evidence. For instance, the prosecution just now had built up an exceedingly neat and apparently incontrovertible case. He proposed showing the fallacy of all which had been made to appear so plain, and in doing so would call an important witness at that moment conduct

"Lady Venetia Montrose!" The sound of that name went like an electric thrill through the heart of the prisoner and his

Overland Kit:

(To be continued—commenced in No. 262.)

THE IDYL OF WHITE PINE

BY ALBERT W. AIKEN, AUTHOR OF "WITCHES OF NEW YORK," "
DEMON," "WHITE WITCH," ETC.

CHAPTER XXIX.

KIT "CHIPS" IN. JOE RAIN, standing in the center of the little road that ran northward by the side of the Reese, trembled.

At what? Around him the pines surged fitfully in the great rocky peaks of the Sierra. tall walls of the canyon went straight up-ward, like a structure built by human hands,

full round moon shone down, though every would present. Crime was increasing with a now and then a sullen cloud passed over frightful rapidity, not among the lower strata and hid the light of the vestal orb, as if the dark-hued courier of the sky, sailing upon the bosom of the air, was jealous of the silver

Rain, the desperado, the man upon whos soul lay the weight of a hundred crimeswhose life from boyhood had been but one long record of wrong-trembled, standing alone in that mountain canyon, at a sound that the pure night-air had brought to his

With every sense intent on the watch, he stood like a statue in the road. His hand clutched convulsively the handle of a revolver in his belt, for the desperado was well armed. Two six-shooters were buckled at his waist, and the blade of a broad, keen-edged bowieknife, thrust through his belt, gleamed silver in the moonlight.

"Cuss my darned coward heart!" he muttered, as he glared with watchful eyes around: is a tree a-rustlin' in the wind a-goin' to make ne shiver and shake? But is it a tree? No pine that grows in this hyer gully ever made that noise. It's somebody a-trackin' me, Injun ashion. Kin it be a red-skin a-goin' fur my top-knot, or is it —" and he paused; a nervous shiver supplied the place of words. The desperado had not trembled at the first thought the Indian warrior had less terror for him than the foe whose name he feared to speak

Rigid as a statue for full five minutes the lesperado remained. The sounds of the night and of the wilderness were around and about him. The breeze murmured through the branches of the pines and whistled softly in varning calls among the winding passages of the rocks of the canyon. The river rippled along over its stony path, and fell with a little, ullen roar over the edge of the shelving ledge into the dark pool below, where the spotted trout waited for its prey. The bum and cry of the night insects rose and fell upon the air iding upon the balsamic breeze, but no sound of human life -nothing that denoted the presence of man in the mountain canyoa fell upon the ears that listened so eagerly.

"I'm a darned fool!" Rain muttered, be tween his teeth; "wuss skeered nor a covote makin' tracks with an ounce ball into him. Why, I believe that a gopher comin' out of hi hole would make me run. I'll go on ag'in.' Joe thrust the half-drawn revolver back into its pouch, and proceeded on his way. Not ter steps did he take, when again he halted, a muttered curse on his lips. His listening ears had again caught the sound that he so feared to hear. But this time, instead of being behind

toward the north. The darned critter has circled round me fur to head me off," Joe muttered, drawing the revolver from his belt. "All I ask is a fair hake; I ain't afraid." But the bloodless lips and quivering hand of the desperado proved that he did not speak the truth. A deadly error was on his soul—a terror that unnerve his sinews and made his head sag with doubt. Again Joe heard the slight sound. It was only some hundred paces ahead of him, and

him, following in his track, it was beyond him,

that grew close to the road. Joe dropped upon his knees behind a huge bowlder. Carefully he drew back the hammer of the revolver. The sharp click of the lock rung out shrilly on the clear mountain air.

came apparently from a little clump of pines

With an anxious face and a beating heart the desperado clutched the weapon moonbeams danced in way 7 lines of light along the surface of the shining barrel.

Then from the covert of the pines, into the center of the road, came the thing that nad produced the noise that had so alarmed Rain

"A jackass rabbit, by thunder!" the des perado exclaimed. And so it was. The harmless little animal palted in the road, sat up on its haunches and looked around.

Joe could not repress a burst of laughter. Alarmed at the noise, the rabbit scampered into the shelter of the bushes again. "Ha, ha, ha!" Joe roared,

'Ha, ha!" rung out an answering laugh ipon the night air, so natural, so unlike a man's laugh, and so unlike an echo, that Joe

gain started in affright. "What a darned fooi I am," he muttered in anger, recovering from his alarm. "Fust I'm skeered to death by a jackass rabbit, and then I jump like a hit antelope at the echo of my own voice. If I ain't got more pluck than this

I'd better sell out." Then again Joe proceeded onward. He folowed the road through the canyon. After it eft the shelter of the defile, it turned suddenly to the right, followed always the course of the stream, and passed across a little rocky

Half way across the plain Joe stopped. Again he had heard the stealthy footsteps folowing upon his trail.

The outlaw turned pale, and great drops of veat came out on his bronzed forehead. With a resolute effort he turned and faced

in the direction of the noise. "Darn the thing, whatever it is!" he cried.
I might as well be killed outright as skeered half to death this way."

The moment the desperado stopped the sound of the footsteps stopped also. Joe listened, but no sound, save the noise of the night insects, the rustle of the breeze, and ripple and swash of the waters, came to his ear.

"Kin it be an echo of my own footsteps?" he muttered, in doubt. "Darned if it ain't more like a ghost following me than a man. My blood feels like ice," and Joe shivered as he spoke. He had again drawn his revolver rom his pocket, and with it ready cocked in his hand, he stood with a gloomy frown upon his rough features.

He was in the center of the little glade within easy revolver range of the pines that hid the entrance to the canyon.

"You darned skulkin' thief, come out an face me if you dare!" Joe said, defiantly. It cost him an effort, though, to utter the de fiance. His voice sounded hard and unnatural even to his own ears.

Before the echoes from the Sierra's side had given back the bold defiance of the outlaw, two forms stood within the rocky plain, lit by the moonbeams. One, the desperado Joe Rain standing in its center, his bronzed face white with terror, and his heart chilled by the cold fingers of black despair; the other, on the very edge of the plain, risen like a specter from amid the pines at the canyon's mouth, was the road-agent, Overland Kit! His face was cov ered by a mask, as usual, a six-shooter in his hand, leveled with a deadly aim at the person of Joe Rain.

A howl of despair came from the lips of the desperado when he beheld the wellknown the breeze that swept ever downward from figure of his former leader step from the dark cover of the pines.

A moment the two surveyed each other, their revolvers leveled at each other's breast; toward the heavens. And from the sky the death in their hands, death in their hearts.

"Overland Kit, by blazes!" exclaimed Joe. in a tone that plainly betrayed that both rage and despair were blended in his heart.

"Treacherous villain!" said the road-agent,

in a stern, deep voice, "are you prepared to "To die?" growled Joe, a fierce light shining in his evil eyes.

"Yes; to die the death that all traitors should die."

"What have I done to you?"

"Cowardly hound!" exclaimed the roadagent, in contempt. "you ask that question even when you are flying, like a thief in the night, from my vengeance. Every time that you have paused to listen for the sound of my footsteps tracking you through the canyon, your guilty conscience has whispered my name in your ear, and told you that I was on your track, and that my mission was one of venge nce. Not a half a mile from this spot I watched you kill Jimmy Mullen. Like a coward, you struck him in the back, then robbed him of his wealth. I did not think then that heaven had destined me to avenge that deed. From my covert in the rocks I watched you depart with out making any effort to stay you. I would not be both your judge and your executioner. although I knew you to be a red-handed murderer. Then you went straight to Spur City, eager for more blood-money. Had your eye een as keen to penetrate my disguise as your hand was quick to strike Mullen in the back, I should have swung from a pine tree. But, your time's up; the game is over, 'pass in your checks.'

"We are man to man hyer; you're no bet ter then I am!" cried Joe, fiercely. "I am armed, an' I'll play my hand for all it's

"You'd better 'pass,'" returned Overland Kit, tersely.

"I'll see you in blazes furst," exclaimed Joe with the courage of despair; "you jist 'chir

"My 'edge!" replied the road-agent. Two puffs of flame, two whip-like cracks and a wounded man fell on the rocks.

CHAPTER XXX.

LIP TO LIP. WHILE the interview between Jinnie and Bernice—the particulars of which we have already related—was taking place, a skulking form, in the darkness of the entry, listened at the door of Bernice's chamber.

The two girls had spoken without caution, therefore the listener had heard every

When the interview came to an end, and Jinnie left the room, the eavesdropper sought concealment under the rude stairs that led to the little garret of the hotel.

The entry was quite dark, except at the head of the stairs that led up from the lower part. There a window let in the moon

With a smile on her face and joy in her heart, Jinnie walked along the entry, never guessing for a moment that listening ears had verheard all that had transpired between her self and Bernice. When Jinnie reached the head of the stairs

she heard the sound of fcotsteps ascending An exclamation of joy broke from her lips She recognized the step. The man came up out of the darkness of the stairway into the circle of light cast by the moon through the window. It was Dick

His face was stern and gloomy; but the expression softened as he beheld Jinnie Why, Jinnie, is that you?" he said, advancing to the side of the girl.

The two stood by the window. The noonbeams streamed in full upon their

"Oh, Dick, you have been in such danger," Jinnie murmured, softly, gazing with an anxous look into Talbot's face.

"A pretty tight place Jinnie," Dick an-"Judge Jones has got a grudge swered. against me for some reason, and he tried all he knew how to have my neck stretched. I can't but he does. There's no mistake about it. I suppose I've trod on his toes in

some way. Jinnie's face flushed for a moment, and she cast down her eyes at Dick's speech. Talbot noticed the peculiar look upon the face of the gir!, and a sudden thought darted through

his mind: And while Jinnie's eyes were cast upon the floor, and Talbot's were searching face anxiously, the dark figure that lav croached in ambush beneath the garret stairs, watched the two with breathles

earnestness. Jinnie and Dick little guessed that anxious ears were drinking in their words, or that eyes glaring in anger, were watching their every

"Jinnie, do you know why Judge Jones nates me?" asked Talbot, suddenly.

Jinnie's face flushed crimson at the ques-tion; the little red lips quivered, and her bosom heaved tumultuously

"You don't answer, Jinnie," Dick said, after waiting in vain for the girl's reply. "How can I answer, Dick?" Jinnie said, slowly. "It isn't right for me to say that I

know when I am only guessing." "Then you have made a guess regarding the matter, eh?"

"Yes," answered the girl, slowly. "What is it?" "Oh, don't ask me, Dick!" cried Jinnie, im-

etuously, her face again flushing up. Talbot looked at the flushed face of the girl for a moment, in silence, a curious expression shining in his eyes.

"Jinnie," he said, abruptly, and after quite a long pause, "I owe you two lives, for twice you have saved mine." And, as he spoke, he passed his arm gently around the waist of the girl, and drew her to his side. She did not re sist, but nestled her head on his breast, and the long-drawn breath—half a sigh—that came from her lips, told of peace and contentment

she was happy. Talbot pressed his lips softly to the low brown forehead of the girl. Jinnie's slight form quivered for a second, like a wind-stirred leaf, as she felt the warm, moist pressure of Dick's lips.

"Twice you have risked your life for mine," he said, earnestly. "Now I think that it is about time that I should try to pay you for the services. Do you remember the time when we stood by the bank of the Reese?"

"Yes," Jinnie said, softly. "I told you, then, that the life that you had saved belonged to you, that it was yours when-ever you wanted to claim it. You haven't

isked for it yet, Jinnie." A single glance Jennie cast into Dick's face and then again the long, golden lashes vailed

the large, clear eyes. 'You're right, Jinnie," he said, slowly, "I had forgot. I must treat you like a woman and not like a child. It is not right that you, a woman, should speak, when I, a man,

hesitate. But, Jinnie, I have not spoken before because—well, because I don't know my-self; I can't tell what I am or what I think. I'm a deal like a piece of pine floating down the Reese, at the mercy of every current and eddy in the stream. One moment, I think that I am a strong, determined, self-willed fellow; and the next, I come to the conclusion that a more wavering, irresolute wretch than I don't exist on top of the earth. Jinnie, I belong to you by rights; I know that, and when I am with you I feel that I love you better than I do any other woman in the world, but, when I am away from you-" and Talbot paused, irresolute

"You think that you don't love me?" Jinnie asked looking up into Dick's face again with her earnest eyes

"No, I don't think that; but, the thought comes to me that, perhaps, I don't love you well enough to make you happy," Dick replied,

"You only think so when you are away from me?

"There is a very easy cure for that, then."
"What is it?" Talbot asked, in astonish-

"You mustn't go away from me at all," the

girl replied, simply.

A smile came over Dick's face at the answer.

"And so, Jinnie, if I tell you honestly and frankly, that I think I love you, but am not sure of it, and ask you to be my wife, what

now will be your answer?"
"Dick, when you play cards do you always make the man you're playing against tell you how he is going to play, before you commence the game?" the girl asked,

"Of course not," Talbot replied, quickly. "And yet, you wish me to tell you how I am going to answer before you put the question. I don't think that is quite fair,

Little girl, I'm no match for you!" cried Talbot, suddenly; "there's more brains in this little head than in a dozen like mine.

I haven't asked you a fair question, but now I will. With a touch full of tenderness, he drew the light form of Jinnie still closer to him, raised up the little head with its halo of red-gold hair. until the clear gray eyes looked full into his

The smile upon Jinnie's face, and the joyous light dancing in her eyes, told how happy she

was.
"Jinnie, you know me as Dick Talbot," he said slowly; "it is very likely that it is not my name. In other years, and in other places far away from this wild region, I may have been known by another name. Blood may be upon my hands, human blood; why, Jinnie, I may be stained by all sorts of crimes. I tell you this, so that you may not act rashly, but take plenty of time to think it over. And now, for what I was going to say at the beginning: Jinnie, I think that I love you well enough to ask you to be my wife. I ain't quite sure of it, for, as I told you before, I am like a man wandering in a dark night; I can't see my way clear; I'm willing to risk it, though, if you are: so, Jinnie, will you be my wife? Don't be in a hurry to answer, you know; take all the

"One little second—only a breath is all I want," Jinnie cried, quickly. "Yes." Firm and decided, but full of love, was that "yes." A moment Dick looked into the clear eyes, now lustrous with the light of love; he saw the flushed cheeks and quivering scarlet lips, so rich and ripe in their dewy sweetness, and then, over his soul, like a flood sweeping all before it down the canyon's bed, came a sw sense of joy, which told him that he did really love the girl, whose little form he pressed

ed the little, full lips that so eagerly awaited that kiss. The soft sound of the passionate kiss that told that two human hearts had agreed to beat in loving concert till the Dark Angel sounded the call of doom, resounded gently through the

against his heart. Then he bent over and kiss

ears of the wacther beneath the stairway. The sound that told of loving concord, transformed him into a demon of hate. His hand closed convulsively over his revolver;

(To be continued—commenced in No. 264.)

death was in his heart.

SYMPTOMS OF LIVER COMPLAINT, AND SOME OF THE DISEASES

PRODUCED BY IT. A sallow or yellow color of skin, or yellowish brown spots on face and other parts of body; dullness and drowsiness with frequent headache; dizziness, bitter or oad taste in mouth, dryness of throat and internal heat; palpitation; in many cases a dry, teazing cough, with sole throat; unsteady appetite, raising food, choking sensation in throat; distress, heaviness, bloated or full feeling about stomach and sides, pain in sides, back or breast, and about shoulders; colic, pain and soreness through bowels, with heat; constipation alternating with frequent attacks of diarrhoa; piles, flatulence, nervousness, coldness of extremities; rush of blood to head, with symptoms of apoplexy, numbness of limbs, especially at night; cold chills alternating with hot flashes, kidney and urinary difficulties; duliness, low spirits, unsociability and gloomy forebodings. Only few of the above symptoms likely to be present at one time. All who use toms likely to be present at one time. All who us Dr. Pierce's Alt. Ext. or Golden Medical Discover, and Pleasant Purgative Peliets for Liver Complain and its complications are loud in their praise of them. They are sold by all dealers in medicines.

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ON THE DUNCE-BLOCK.

BY JOE JOT, JR.

Upon the dunce block! What a throne For one whose hopes were fixed on higher! And on my head the dunce's crown, That burned there like a band of fire!

My great boy's heart within me died; I tried to smile but turned all colors; I sat there in my downcast pride Before a hundred cruel scholars.

My future hopes, how faded they! How did my downfall overawe me! How painfully I rued the day; But, worst of all, Malinda saw me!

My misdemeanor I aver Was for her sake, my miss of misses! The master caught me throwing her, I thought unseen, some long-range kisses.

Shy glancing round I caught her eye, So roguish and devoid of pity, A-peeping at me on the sly Through curls that made her face so pretty.

My rival, too, saw my disgrace; Beneath his tickled gaze I wriggled; Re made at me a mocking face, And at his nose his fingers wiggled.

He triumphed over me, and oh, How in my heart did I despise him! And yow as homeward we should go That I most sorely would chastise him,

And when at last the school was out
To punch his head I took occasion;
The boys said 'twas an awful bout,
And I got licked like all creation.

And oh, to think! The little flirt, To fill me more with sore repentance, With laughing words she out my heart, And then next day cut my acquaintance!

LEAVES

From a Lawyer's Life.

BY A. GOULD PENN.

X.-The Detective Detected. I HAD just seated myself comfortably at the breakfast-table, one morning, when my kind landlady announced that a lad at the door wish-

ed to see me. Supposing the lad to be the bearer of some commonplace message, I went to the door to learn his errand. A bright-eyed little fellow greeted me politely, with a cheery "Good-morning, Mr. Smith."

'What's wanting, my little man?" I ask-"Mr. Aaron Flockman, the merchant tailor, sent me to ask you to call at his store immedi-

Now, I was not one who would abandon a good breakfast, even at the request of a weal-thy Jewish merchant like Aaron Flockman, so I told the boy to report that I would call in as I went down to my office, and then I went back to coffee and toast, and deliberately finished

my morning meal.
"What could old Flockman be wanting?" I wondered.

He was a man who had never patronized me before; in fact, he seemed to be very success ful in accumulating wealth, and in keeping out

I sauntered down-town, exchanging greetings with the business people as they hurried past, when I was overtaken by a young merchant, who thrust his arm in mine as he bade me good-morning. 'Heard the news, Smith?" laconically.

"News? No. What is up now?" I asked.
"Burglary last night; old Flockman's strongbox riddled to the music of about ten thou-

"Indeed! Any clue to the rascals?" "Don't know; just heard of it myself," and my friend dodged into his store.

I hastened onward, and arriving at old Flockman's place of business, I found the front closed, and a group of news mongers gathered about the door.

My knock was answered, and I was admitted by a fancifully dressed young Israelite, a clerk of the establishment. The old merchant sat in a huge arm-chair,

in his broken English, and pointed dejectedly to the ruins, saying:

"I am a ruined man, Meester Schmit-not? ings now but a beggar. Ten t'ousand dollar of mine hard-earned monish gone-With some effort I succeeded in getting the

story from him, and saw how the burglars had gained an entrance through the strong-barred

"I vants mine moneys back, Mr. Schmit; I vants dot burglars tooken up, shust, and I pays you vell."

Having noted carefully the surroundings, and got all the information I could, I inquired confidentially of old Aaron respecting the habits and character of his fancy clerk, and found that the old man saw no reason of suspecting him. But my first glance had convinced me that the young man had the capacity, and probably the villainous audacity, to take a hand in any such game. His very looks struck me as being peculiar, but I said no more about

Bidding old Aaron to keep his store strictly closed, and not to disturb anything or to admit any one without my order, I assured him that the thieves should be caught, and proceeded to the telegraph office. Here I sent a brief dispatch to my old friend Homer, the detective, and then returned to my office.

The next train brought Homer, who at once

came to see me, and together we went and examined the premises of the burglary.

After finishing our inspection, Homer as sured me that he knew by the signs what particular gang of professionals had done the job and advised me as to my future course. told Aaron to open up his store and proceed with his business, and above all to keep his tongue strictly quiet.

The day wore on and the excitement began to subside, when old Aaron Flockman came to my office, accompanied by a smart-looking young man, whom he introduced as a detect-

I listened patiently while the young stranger talked glibly of his wonderful talent, and ap-pointed a private meeting with him at my of-

fice that night.

He came, according to promise, and we dis

cussed the matter in all its bearings.
"Now, sir, Mr. Weston," for that was the detective's name, "what will be your charge if you undertake this job?"
"My dear Mr. Smith," and he smiled so per-

suadingly, "you must allow that to accomplish the job would be worth a handsome fee." "Certainly, Mr. Weston. I understand that.'

"Well, sir, I will make this proposition: for two thousand dollars I will deliver the guilty parties to the proper officers, but if I the money, also, my price must be a little higher, you understand."

I understood and closed the bargain, and he left, seemingly highly elated. After the door had closed upon him, I arose and turned the key, and gave a signal cough.

Detective John Homer stepped into the room from out a large, empty clothes-press that stood in one corner.

"Well, did you spot the man, Homer?" asked. "No, sir; he is a new bird in these parts but I don't like his looks, and my word for it, in two days he will be back to you for a change

in the programme." "A change? how?" "He will offer a compromise that if the gang will return so much money, they shall retain the rest, and no further steps be taken to

prosecute the case." "Then what?"
"If he does, he is my meat," confidently exclaimed Homer, and he told me how to pro-

ceed in such event. A week elapsed, and I began to fear Homer's predictions were not to be verified, when, one day, Detective Weston entered my office, fol-

lowed by the old Jew, Aaron.

"What success?" I inquired, by way of introducing the subject.
"Ah, Meester Schmit," broke in the Jew, more monish, more monish ish de cry, ant I

am so poor!" "Yes, sir," explained Weston. "I received an anonymous note from members of the gang, offering to return the spoils on a fair division,

providing there will be a guarantee of no fur-ther proceedings against them." "Have you obtained any clue to the perpe-

trators?" I asked Weston.
"Well, yes—a little," he answered, hesitatngly; "I have found sufficient evidence that Anson Rosser, the young man who clerks for our friend here, is one of the guilty parties." "Then we will proceed against him," I re-

plied, and the two left my presence.

In due time everything was arranged for the arrest of Anson Rosser, and amid his protesta-tions of innocence, he was carried to jail.

I was fully satisfied that Rosser was concern ed in the robbery, but the conduct of Detective Weston was what puzzled me, and so I re-

sorted to his shadow, Homer, for light.
"'Cute chap," said Homer; "he don't suspicion that I am on his trail. I told you he rould offer a compromise."
"But, how do you account for Weston's

readiness to have Anson Rosser arrested?" I demanded.

"Easy enough. I see through his plan; but

"I became acquainted with the prisoner, Anson Rosser, some four weeks ago, just following the burglary. I heard him tell, in the presence of several persons, how he had assisted in the robbery of Aaron Flockman's safe, and saw him have the money that was here shown, which he received as his share of the

"Do you know any other persons who were present at the same time?"

"Mr. Detective Weston was present." "A lie!" shouted Weston, springing to his

"Officer, do your duty," commanded the witness, and a deputy laid his hand on Weston's shoulder, and produced a warrant for his body. In a twinkling the irons were clasped over his wrists, and, livid with rage, he glared at the witness, who coolly proceeded to remove wig and whiskers, and Detective John Homer stood before the astonished multi-

Then, turning to the jury, Homer contin-

"Johnson Caid and Sandy Murphy were

there; Mr. Officer, arrest them at once."

The two astonished jurymen were at once taken in charge, without a show of resist-

Of course these high-handed measures met with loud protestations from the defendant's counsel, but when Detective Homer explained to the court how he had insinuated himself into the band of burglars and learned their secrets, the judge remanded the entire lot to

Detective Weston, fairly detected and outwitted by his shrewd compeer, plead guilty to the burglary, as did also his associates, and in due time all were sentenced to a term in the penitentiary.

Their poor tool, Anson Rosser, received a lighter sentence. The spoils that remained—something over nine thousand dollars—were duly returned to the delighted Jew, who, in a sudden spasm of generosity, rewarded Homer with a handsome fee.

Some of the band of burglars effected their escape before they could be spotted, and men. among them were several well-known young criminals.

in his vitals, answered to the call of his mas-

ter, and they rode on side by side.

"Listen, Ruy," cried the cavalier, "I feel my horse stagger beneath me, and I know that he is sped. I shall be taken or killed, but you may do the work for which I am sent. Hernando de Soto sends by my hand, to Pedro Diaz at Espiritu Santo, this belt of silver. It is a token to him that he must march at once, to join the Adelantado in the country of Vitachuco. Without his help it may go hard with the governor and his gallant men. You must take the token, and ride for your

"I may not leave you, Don Garcia."
"Boy!" cried the cavalier, sternly, "would you peril the lives of two thousand gallant men for the poor satisfaction of dying by my side? I command you to take the belt and flee, while there is yet time."
"My noble master—"

"S.lence; take the belt, and make all speed. Say to Don Pedro that the Adelantado com-mands him, by this token, to break up his camp and join him. The Silver Belt is on its way, and must not stop because my life is sped."
Still the lad hesitated, and a look of love and

levotion passed over his face. "I am strongly tempted to tell you all, Don Garcia, and then you would not order me to leave you. Look closely at my face, and tell me if you ever saw it, before you took me for your page at Havana?"

Don Garcia turned to gaze at him, when his horse staggered, and fell dead without a struggle, pinioning his left leg and foot beneath the fallen body. Then he knew that all was over, and that the page could do nothing more than die above him, for his slight strength would never have sufficed to lift the heavy body of the horse. At the same moment, with defiant whoops, the forms of the Seminoles could be seen darting from the thicket, waving their spears, bows and wooden swords in the air.

"Give me the token, Don Garcia," cried the page. "You will be taken, but I swear to you, when I have done my work, to return and

die with you."
"Fare thee well," replied Don Garcia, as he held up the Silver Belt. "Give no thought to me, but save the brave De Soto and his gallant

The Indians were now close at hand, shouting wildly, and eager to effect the capture of



Ruy snatched the belt from the extended hand of his master, stooping in his saddle to reach it.

gazing sorrowfully at the wreck of his strong iron safe, and on my approach began a tirade will be on hand with the full facts in good other cities, and would have undoubtedly could not escape. time.

"I can't see your purpose, Homer, but if you say you can produce the evidence we will go ahead.

"I am in a fair way to get all the necessary facts. I am as sure as can be that I can lay my hands on the real criminals at a moment's otice, and can produce every dollar of the

swag, too."
"You must be one of the gang?" I suggested, a little dubious at his confident manne "I am!" he replied, and cautiously left the

The time that had elapsed since the robbery had somewhat dulled public curiosity. No one knew that I had employed Detective Homer, excepting Aaron, the Jew, and my partner, Ayres.

Hence the day of trial came on, and the case made no unusual stir. Anson Rosser was duly arraigned, and expert counsel assigned him by the court, while Ayres and myself were employed by Aaron Flockman to assist in the

The prisoner maintained a reserve, and showed no disposition to confess. The shrewdest questioning failed to get any admission from

A motley jury was impanneled—composed of men of many different occupations, and one strange feature struck me, that several of the urors were entire strangers to me, nor could get any information concerning them

Homer was not to be seen, but a note from nim, conveyed to me by some mysterious means, cautioned us to take no exceptions to the jury, so on this faith we accepted them.

Detective Weston was called: stated his oc cupation, etc., answering with apparent readiess the usual preparatory questions.

"Mr. Weston, state to the court and jury what you have discovered in relation to this

His story was in brief, that he had carefully examined the surroundings and had become onvinced that some party familiar with the inside of the store must have planned and executed the burglary. Acting on this opinion, and also on the fact that he had found in one corner of the ruined safe a small piece of a gold finger-ring on which was engraved the letter B, he had traced the clue, and among the effects of the prisoner had found some of the coin and bills that had been taken from the safe.

These were duly exhibited, and proven beyond a doubt by the testimony of Aaron Flock-

"Call Jack Martin," I ordered, and the sheriff soon appeared with a strange-looking, heavily-bearded man, who was placed upon the witess-stand and sworn

A cursory glance at Detective Weston showed me that he had paled and was eying the witness with a glance of fiercest power, but instantly he resumed his usual expression and appeared unconcerned. "Mr. Martin," I asked, "will you state your

proven so in this instance had their bogus detective not been himself detected.

The Silver Belt.

BY C. D. CLARK.

THE clash of arms, and the thrilling yells of savage warriors, sounded through the depths of the Everglades, and two horsemen dashed out of a little opening at full speed, riding for life or death. At a single glance it was plain that they were Spaniards, for the dress of the leader was that of the Spanish cavalier, with slashed pourpoint over chain mail, high horseman's boots and plumed cap, while the lighter figure was clothed in the simple attire of a page. The cavalier was a handsome young gentleman, with the pale olive complexion of the Navarrese, drooping mustache, and long curling hair, dropping on his shoulders.

The page, who sat his horse easily and gracefully, was a slender stripling, with a face which was strangely fair for a boy. He was wholly unarmed, and his golden hair dropped in rippling waves upon his embroidered coat. 'Give me a weapon, Don Garcia," he cried.

"Your dagger, if nothing more."
"Nay, Ruy," replied the cavalier. "If I cannot buckler your breast from harm, your weak hand may not do it. The path is open in front as yet; ride thou on, and leave me to deal with these heathen dogs."

"Leave you, while I have strength to lift a hand in your defense? Never, Don Garcia Darolles; never?"

"Thou art a brave lad," said the Spaniard. and I am proud to have such a follower. But you can serve me better by flight, for I have no weapon to give you."

"I will not leave you," replied the page, proudly, but firmly.

Still they kept up their mad career, and still about them arose the wild yells of the Seminoles, as they closed in upon the doomed pair. One warrior, braver or more agile than his comrades, sprung out of the thicket in the path, swinging above his head a huge war-club. Don Garcia, shouting his battle-cry, rode at him sword in hand. The blow fell, but was turned aside by the skillful hand of the Spaniard, and his blade was buried to the hilt in the broad bosom of the Seminole. He dropped under the trampling feet of the war-horse, but, even in the agonies of death, he still knew how to sting. Starting upon one knee, he drew the knife at his girdle, and buried it to the hilt just between the fore-legs of the gallant steed, which, maddened by the pain, crushed down the bold savage, and trampled him out of the semblance of humanity beneath

his iron hoofs. "On, on," cried Don Garcia, setting in his spurs. "A few miles more, and we reach Espiritu Santo."

"If you escape, Ruy, and ever reach Havana, say to Dona Adela Zani that her cavalier died as he had lived, a true son of Spain.

Away; why do you linger here?"

Ruy snatched the belt from the extended hand of his master, stooping in his saddle to reach it. Their eyes met, and a look of won-der and fear could be seen in the dark eyes of

"Ha!" he cried, "I know thee now. Ride; ride for your life, for the Indians are upon

you."
"You see that I cannot leave you, Garcia." "You say that you love me and are willing to die for my sake. I command you then, by that love, to do a greater thing than this; to

fly, and leave me to my fate.' "I go," the page said. "Woe to you, hea-then dogs, when I return."

He shook his clenched hand at the savages now so near at hand that bows were bent, and the arrows began to whistle about his slight form. Bending low in the saddle, and giving his horse the spurs, he bounded away, and was quickly lost to sight in the depths of the Everglades. While some still pursued him on foot, others rushed upon the prostrate cavalier, made him captive, and raised the body of the

"Ha, robber and murderer," cried the chief, a stalwart giant, naked to the waist, and bear ing upon his brown breast the scars of many "In the country of Mudero we will give you enough. We will kill you man by man, and hang you up for the buzzards to

horse.

The man spoke the Spanish tongue quite easily, much to the surprise of the prisoner.

"You look strangely at me, because I can speak your tongue, Spaniard. Look at me; I am a man who has been a slave, when the first Spaniard came to this side of the great sea. For years I toiled in your fields, under the lash. scaped; I came to these shores, swearing deadly vengeance against all your race.

"Why waste words?" said the Spaniard, lldly. "If I am to die, it is well. A Spancoldly. "If I am to die, it is well, A special ish hidalgo knows how to meet any fate like a

"There will be weeping in the camp of the Spaniard, when the boy rides back and carries the Silver Belt to them. Then they will know that the young chief, who kept the causeway so well, in the country of the chief Mudero, is dying under the tortures of his men.

"Enough of words," replied the Spaniard. 'Slave that you are, the best tortures you can think of cannot make me blench."

The Indian smiled grimly, and, at a sign from the speaker, the prisoner was led away, after the dead horse had been stripped of his trappings. They plunged at once into the dismal recesses of the Everglades, the prisoner marching with a firm, free step, giving the Indians glances of haughty defiance, in answer A two hours' march to their fierce looks. The brave steed, with the knife still buried brought them to the Indian village, built upon

one of the great swamp-islands with which the one of the great swamp-islands with which the Everglades abound. A rude collection of huts, perhaps two hundred in number, built up with a plaza in the center, after the manner of the Florida Indians. A rude stockade surrounded the village, and out of the gateways rounded a motiva around man women and shill. poured a motley crowd, men, women and children, wild with joy at the capture of one of the hated race; for it was not often that a Spaniard fell alive into their hands. He was led to the center of the village, and exposed to the insults of the women and children. while the chiefs met in council. They did not remain long, when they came out, headed by the chief who had been a slave, and who had a knowledge of Spanish.

"Spaniard," he said, with a look of mock

sorrow on his face, "you have said that the Indians are poor in tortures. This is true, and we have tried to think of something worthy of you, something which even a Spaniard might approve. We have done our best, and no one could do more."

"I am waiting; say your say as quickly as

"We shall leave you at the stake until the sun goes down, without your armor. We will let the women and children shoot arrows into your flesh, and touch you with burning fire-brands. These are simple things to do, but our women and children must have some pleasure. As the sun goes down, we will put on your mail, and build a fire about you. We shall then see how stout-hearted you are."

Garcia started, for he knew that the flerce-hearted savage had hit upon a torture which was terrible. But he manned his dauntless heart, and through that long afternoon smiled at the tortures of the women and children, as they shot arrows into his naked breast, and scored his limbs with firebrands. As the sun went slowly down among the branches of the live-oaks, they again inclosed his limbs in the chain-mail which he had worn beneath his garments, and led him to the stake. A great pile of faggots had been heaped up about it, and the chief advanced to light the funeral

"Come nearer," said the captive. "Before you light the faggots, I have a word to say to

The chief came nearer, when, with a wild laugh, Garcia burst the bonds upon his hands, and dealt the ruffian a crashing blow with his mailed hand. Had the head of the chief been incased in a helmet of proof, it could scarcely have resisted that terrible blow. As it was, he went down at the feet of his enemy, his

skull crushed like an egg-shell.
"This blow for the honor of old Spain!" he cried. "Heathen hounds, a Spanish cavalier slays, even in death."

A howl of mingled rage and fury burst from the assembled crowd, as they saw their chief lie dead. A warrior sprung forward, and seizing the torch which had fallen from the hand of the slain man, lighted the pile, and the flame began to creep up, inch by inch, about the mailed limbs of the prisoner. They had chosen wood which would burn with a clear, bright flame, without smoke. At first, the chain-mail was a protection; but, as the heat was communicated to the steel, the tor-ture began in real earnest. The flames could not touch his body, but the heated steel would roast him alive! Still the flames swelled up, and the savages danced exultantly about him, when an event occurred which they had not dreamed of. The green withes began to crackle, and with the exertion of his utmost strength, the prisoner broke away, and flung himself upon the nearest warrior, wrenching from his bond he nearest warrior, wrenching from his hand his own sword, of which the fellow had taken possession. The Indian went down, cloven to the teeth, and setting his back to the wall of a cabin, Don Garcia cleared a space about him with his good blade. But they poured upon him like a flood; axes, warclubs and spears were tried upon his armor; yet he stood, his sword swaying from side to side, his dark eyes flashing, and his resounding voice ringing out his battle-cry:

"Santiago! A Darolles!" But numbers must win at last, and the trongest arm cannot strike forever. At his feet lay six men, slain by his deadly point, and as many more had slunk away, desperately wounded. He struck full at the exposed nead of an Indian, but a club was interpose and the faithless steel shivered to the hilt. saw that all was over, and flung himself into their midst, striking with his gauntleted hands But a dozen hatchets were ringing on his steel cap, and already a spear-point had found a joint in his armor. He sunk upon one knee, still fighting, when high and wild above the din rose the charging cheer of the cavaliers, and a hundred horsemen suddenly dashed in through the open gates. At their head, holding the pennon of Darolles in his hand, rode Ruy Valdez, the page. And about his waist gleamed the silver belt, which had been sent as a token to Don Pedro Diaz.

It was not a battle, but a massacre. And when the tiger strife was over, two hundred warriors lay dead within the village, and Garcia Darolles awoke from his swoon to find a soft hand laving his brow, while the sweet yes of the page were looking into his.

"Adela!" he cried. Yes, my Garcia. The page, Ruy Valdez, who has ridden by your side in days of peril, is your promised bride. I am worthy now of your great name, for I have saved your life." Adela del Zani returned to Havana on board the first caravel which left Espiritu Santo, while her lover turned his horse's head to the

orth, and joined De Soto in the country of Vitachuco. He fought by his side through many battles, and was one of the few, of all that great company, who reached home again. The girl page had been faithful, and they were wedded. And about the slender waist of the bride, as she stood at the altar, gleamed the silver belt, which was ever preserved in the family of Darolles, as a remembrance of the day when the page led the horsemen of Diaz to the rescue of Don Garcia.

HOW OTHERS SEE US.

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paper.—Independent, Grayville, Ill.

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